

# City of East Providence Comprehensive Plan



## 2025-2035 APPENDICES



# APPENDIX A

## Public Engagement



# East Providence Comprehensive Plan Update

## Ward Meetings Summary

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A virtual public meeting was held for each of the four Wards. Attendance was small at all meetings, but discussions were rich and identified common issues.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	April 1, 2021	5
<b>Ward 2</b>	April 8, 2021	8
<b>Ward 3</b>	April 15, 2021	14
<b>Ward 4</b>	April 22, 2021	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		43

After a short introductory presentation, discussion focused around three questions.

Question 1: What needs to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy? Why?

### Social and Community Setting

- City has a low crime rate.
- Many generations stay in city.
- Diversity in population – brings small town feeling, enriches lives – know about lifestyles of other cultures through local markets, church festivals, restaurants

### City Services and Infrastructure

- Public schools are a priority.
- Police and fire service are excellent.
- Taxes are reasonable.
- Libraries are greatly valued.

### Natural Resources

- Open space and green space for aesthetics and public health

### Historic and Cultural Resources

- Many historic buildings and places

### Walking and Biking

- East Bay Bike Path is a great community amenity.

### Recreation

- Youth sports are the vitality of city.
- City’s parks and recreation areas, playgrounds are an asset.

## Waterfront

- City's waterfront is an asset.

Question 2: What is doing ok, but needs support or investment to reach its full potential? What types of investments?

## Social and Community Setting

- Gateway to City: Wachemocket Square – will be able to walk to restaurants, bars, yacht club. So much is there already.

## City Services and Infrastructure

- Infrastructure maintenance and new investments – continue to focus on road paving, sidewalks, playgrounds and parks, new recreation equipment, seawall at Rose Larisa Park
  - Build in long-term maintenance with a budget

## Natural Resources

- Build on efforts of EP Urban Forest and greening city, community gardens, planting trees

## Historic and Cultural Resources

- Build knowledge of city's historic places, add historic markers, programming at Hunt's Mill.

## Walking and Biking, Connections

- More walking and biking connections between neighborhoods
- In addition to sidewalks, need to improve walking safety, crosswalks, particularly around schools to encourage more students to walk and commercial areas to encourage people not drive if they don't have to.
- ADA accessibility
- Dedicated space for bikes on roads
- Specific areas of concern
  - Warren Avenue and North and South Broadway
  - Grosvenor Avenue and John Street

## Businesses and Commercial Development

- Build support for businesses if something like COVID happens again
- Areas with empty store fronts are a concern. Need to invest in existing businesses and bring in new, small businesses to create a community (ex. independent bookstores, art events, restaurants); connecting businesses to adjacent neighborhoods; incentives to fill storefronts.
  - Taunton Avenue in front of City Hall
  - Taunton Avenue/Six Corners
  - Waterman Avenue
  - Riverside Square

## Housing Opportunities

- Affordable housing is needed. Create a place where all people can find housing – own, rent, subsidize, encourage diversity
- Affordable homes that are also accessible to people with disabilities.

Question 3: What should be transformed and re-imagined? What would this transformation look like? What are some opportunities or challenges to make this transformation happen?

## Social and Community Setting

- Create community center – not just for teens. Place to have monthly meetings. Example in Warren – good architecture, mixed use, walkable to many things

## City Services and Infrastructure

- New high school is a great opportunity to build a place for residents and attract families. Voting for the bond to build the new school shows residents are invested in our children's future.

## Walking and Biking

- Take advantage of people using the bike path to draw them into local destinations like Riverside Square, down Bullocks Point Avenue to Rose Larisa Park/Carousel; bike safety, walkable, traffic calming
- Car de-centered city – access to public transit, rideshares (wheelchair accessible), bike, pedestrian – historic bike tour – family centered activity
  - Somewhere to work, live, and play but interchange all without having to get into a car
  - Stay more local, more sustainable
  - Safe for kids – well-lit streets, easy to cross, easy to navigate

## Other Mobility/Transportation Connections

- If fine arts center at Watchemoket, there is very little parking.
  - Some type of shuttle bus, trolley cars to get to this new destination
  - Water taxi with RIPTA shuttles
  - Connections to music venue at Bold Point Park
- Connecting the village areas – potential for creating new web of transportation based on more autonomous vehicles. Chance to create traffic pattern within city itself that makes it feel its connected (split by I-195). In 20 years, transportation will be very different from today.
- Bus service to different parts of state with hub in East Providence

## Businesses and Commercial Development

- Build businesses that get people to do their shopping and daily needs in East Providence rather than Massachusetts.
- Six Corners/Taunton Avenue
  - Confusing, jumble, not conducive to businesses in area.
  - Accidents/dangerous

## Waterfront

- Future development in the Waterfront District – what will it look like in 20 years (access, future development, climate change). It should be accessible to the whole community.
- Utilize the waterfront from Rumford to Riverside

## Housing Opportunities

- Attracting young people and young families: Type of housing, amenities etc.
  - People want to feel part of a community – connect the different neighborhoods, make newcomers feel welcome
- Use different approaches to create more affordable options for people at all life stages (young people to seniors)
  - Middle housing – working class, middle income, young families
  - Historic preservation – reusing existing, older structures for housing
  - Not enough housing for families who want to move in
  - Mixed generation housing – elders babysit kids, etc.



# East Providence Comprehensive Plan Update

## Community Survey Summary

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An online community survey was available from January through March 2021. It was promoted through the City's website and Comprehensive Planning page, postcard mailers in the monthly utility bill, the City's and Mayor's social media, advertisements in local papers (*The East Providence Post* and *The Reporter*), and announcements at local board and committee meetings. English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Creole versions of the survey were available, and paper copies could be requested from the Planning and Economic Development Department. The survey was reopened in June 2021 to give East Providence residents additional time to provide their feedback. When the survey was reopened, questions about the COVID-19 response were omitted to shorten the survey as a way to encourage more to take the survey. Additionally, many of the questions were less pressing because vaccines were available, and people were returning to work and school in-person. The survey was permanently closed July 30, 2021.

A total of 468 people took the survey, however not all responded to every question. Below is a summary of responses. Comments provided in open-ended questions are detailed in the attachment to this summary.

## Survey Responses

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What are the City's strengths and opportunities today that we can build on for the future? (370 responded)

The following is a summary of common topics and ideas in response to the survey question. See the Attachment for detailed comments.

When looking at the City's strengths and opportunities today that can be built on for the future, most respondents said that the City's waterfront is an immensely important asset. It offers opportunities for new development/redevelopment and public spaces. Many also feel the City's location is a great opportunity. Again, it's location along the Seekonk and Providence rivers and access to the shoreline, but also being near major highways like I-95 and I-195. With this highway access, it is close to Providence and other regional destinations.

Many respondents feel the people of East Providence are a strength for the City's future. While a city, there is still a small-town feel with its unique neighborhoods. Respondents note residents have a deep sense of community and pride in their City. Residents stay, or hope to stay, in East Providence for generations. Many respondents highlight the community's support for the new high school and investing in education. The new facility brings opportunities to not only existing students and faculty, but to the city as a whole and attracting new families. City services are also strengths, specifically public safety (police and fire), libraries, trash collection and recycling, and water and sewer services.

Respondents also feel there are opportunities to grow and attract businesses in the City's commercial areas, including Riverside Square, and Warren and Taunton avenues. There are new, small businesses opening around the city and residents are dedicated to support these establishments.

Finally, many respondents also see the City's recreational amenities, natural areas, and green spaces as strengths and opportunities for its future. The East Bay Bike Path is an important resource for residents and visitors. The City's parks and playgrounds are diverse and well maintained, and the Recreation Department offers great programming. Many respondents want to protect and enhance existing natural areas, with several citing preservation of the Metacomet Country Club property.

### What are the City's biggest challenges today and in the future? (383 responded)

The following is a summary of common topics and ideas in response to the survey question. See the Attachment for detailed comments.

Respondents overwhelmingly agree that one of the City's biggest challenges today and in the future is the need to upgrade and repair the City's infrastructure (roads, bridges, water, sewer) and its buildings and facilities and ensure long-term maintenance. Respondents note that making City roads more walkable and bikable will be a challenge. The lack of road and sidewalk maintenance makes getting around without a car difficult, and there is a sense of increased traffic that makes it unsafe. While the new high school is seen as an opportunity and strength, many respondents see the lack of investment in other school facilities as well as the quality of the education students receive as challenges.

Many respondents also comment that an incredibly pressing issue the City needs to tackle is preserving and protecting open spaces and natural areas. These areas are at risk from development and pose a challenge for the City. Residential development appears to be too much and happening too quickly in the wrong places. There are several vacant and rundown commercial areas that have been that way for too long and need to be the focus of redevelopment.

Respondents cite increased residential taxes will also be a challenge in the future. The City will need to counter this increase by growing its industrial and commercial tax base to help pay for services and infrastructure improvements and reduce this burden on residents. This means retain existing businesses and attracting new ones.

Finally, offering homes that are more affordable and better suited for seniors, young families, and veterans will be an issue the City needs to address. This includes rental options, including apartments, and smaller, more accessible homes.

### If you were gone for 20 years and returned to East Providence, what would you like to see? (389 responded)

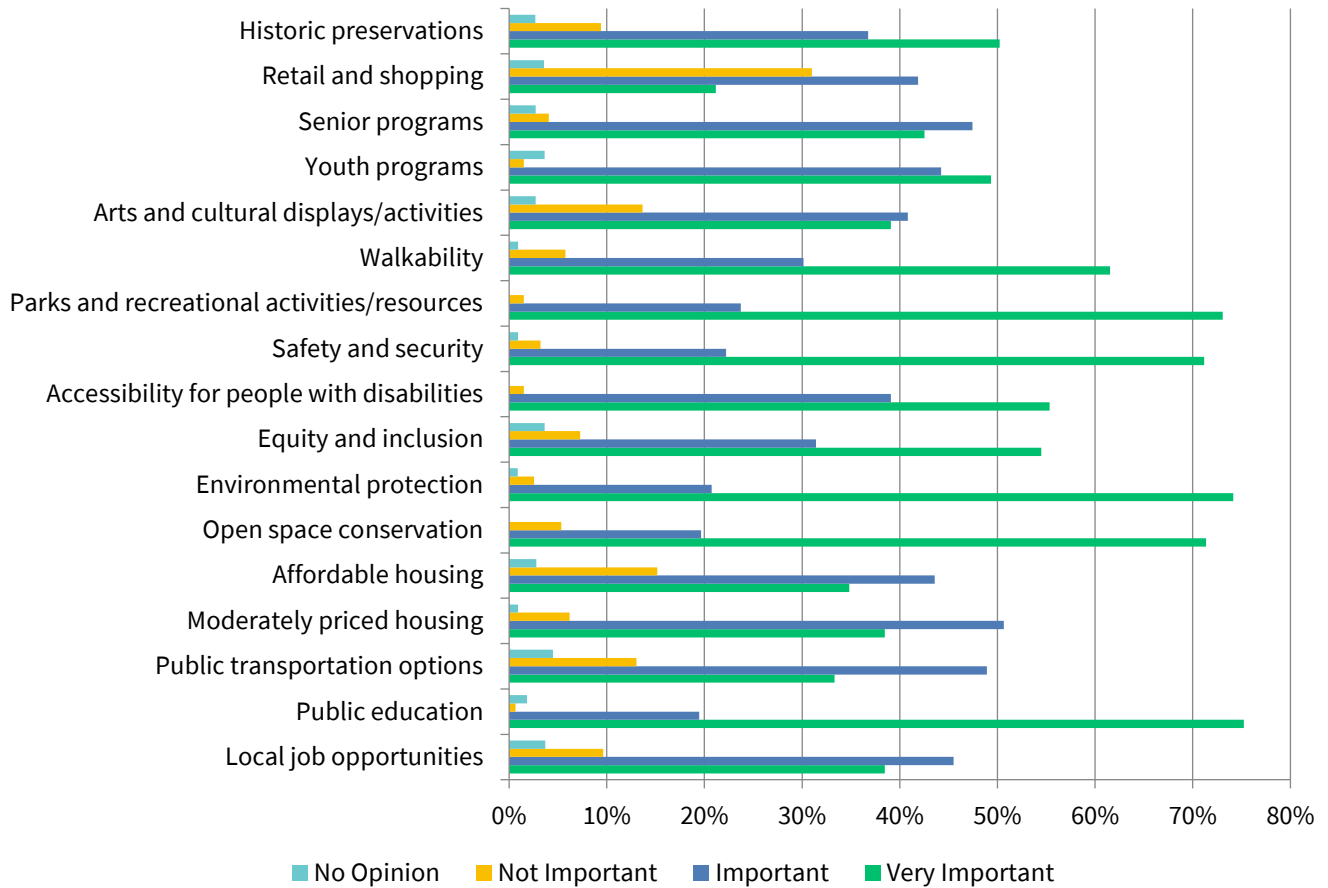
The following is a summary of common topics and ideas in response to the survey question. See the Attachment for detailed comments.

The overwhelming majority of respondents to this question commented they would like to see an increase in green space and open space and well-maintained infrastructure. Other respondents mentioned a vibrant and



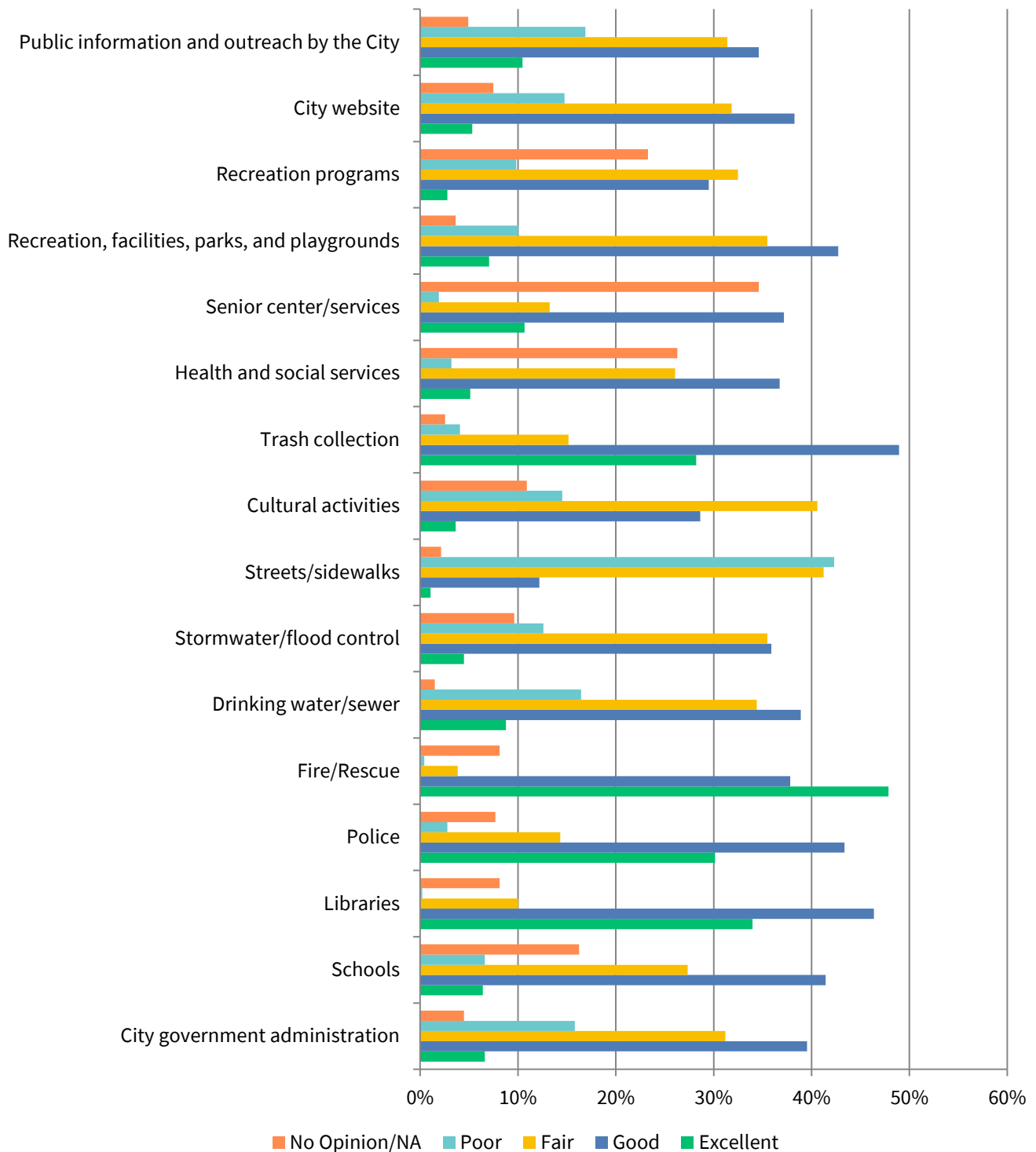
walkable community that included housing for all. Several respondents talked about seeing a thriving Waterfront district and celebrated small businesses. See Attachment for detailed comments.

How important are the following to the quality of life in East Providence? (467 responded)



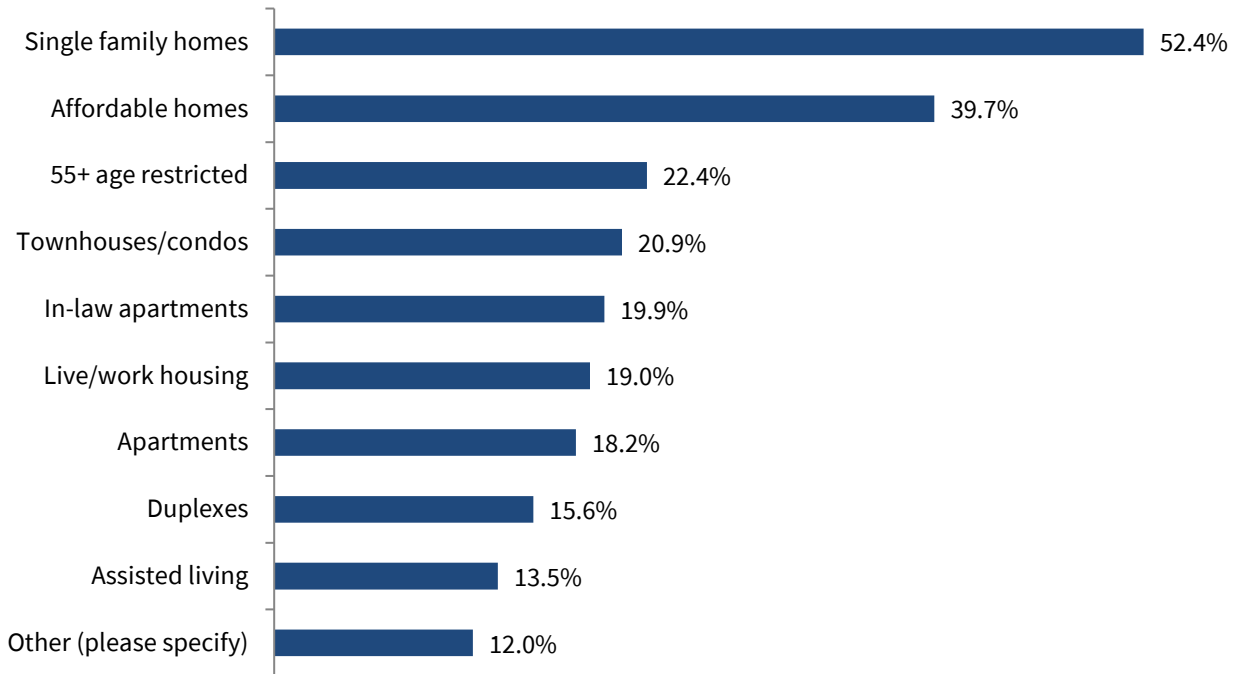
Other: Many respondents reiterated that green space is essential to quality of life in East Providence and the importance of environmental protection and conservation. Some also said infrastructure is very important (roads, bridges, sidewalks, walking/biking).

Rate the following public services. (465 responded)



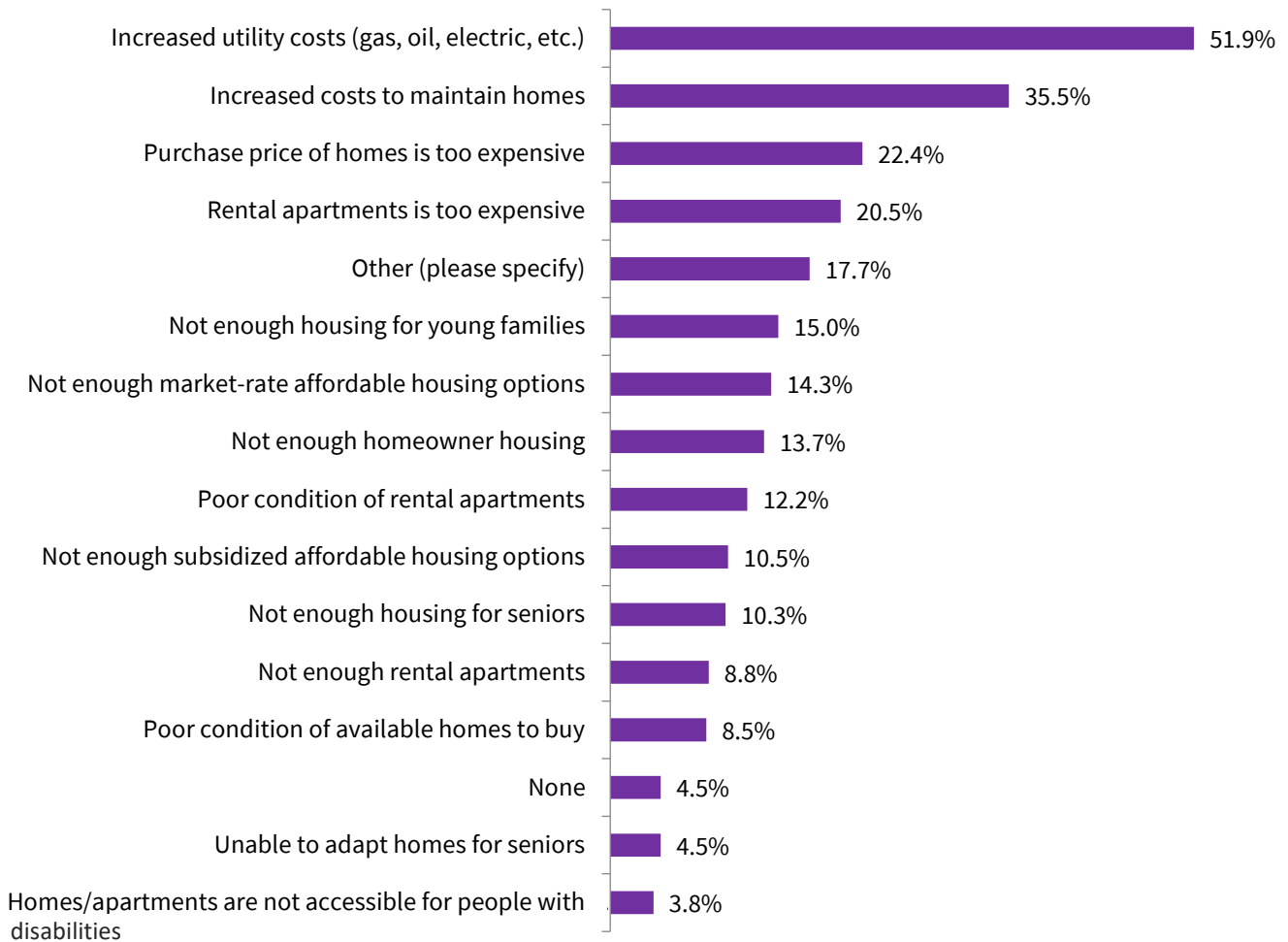
Other: Many respondents commented that the outreach from the Mayor’s office through social media platforms is very helpful. Others mentioned that there should be more transparency from the City and more chances for public comment with new developments/projects.

What types of housing are needed in East Providence? Check all that apply. (429 responded)



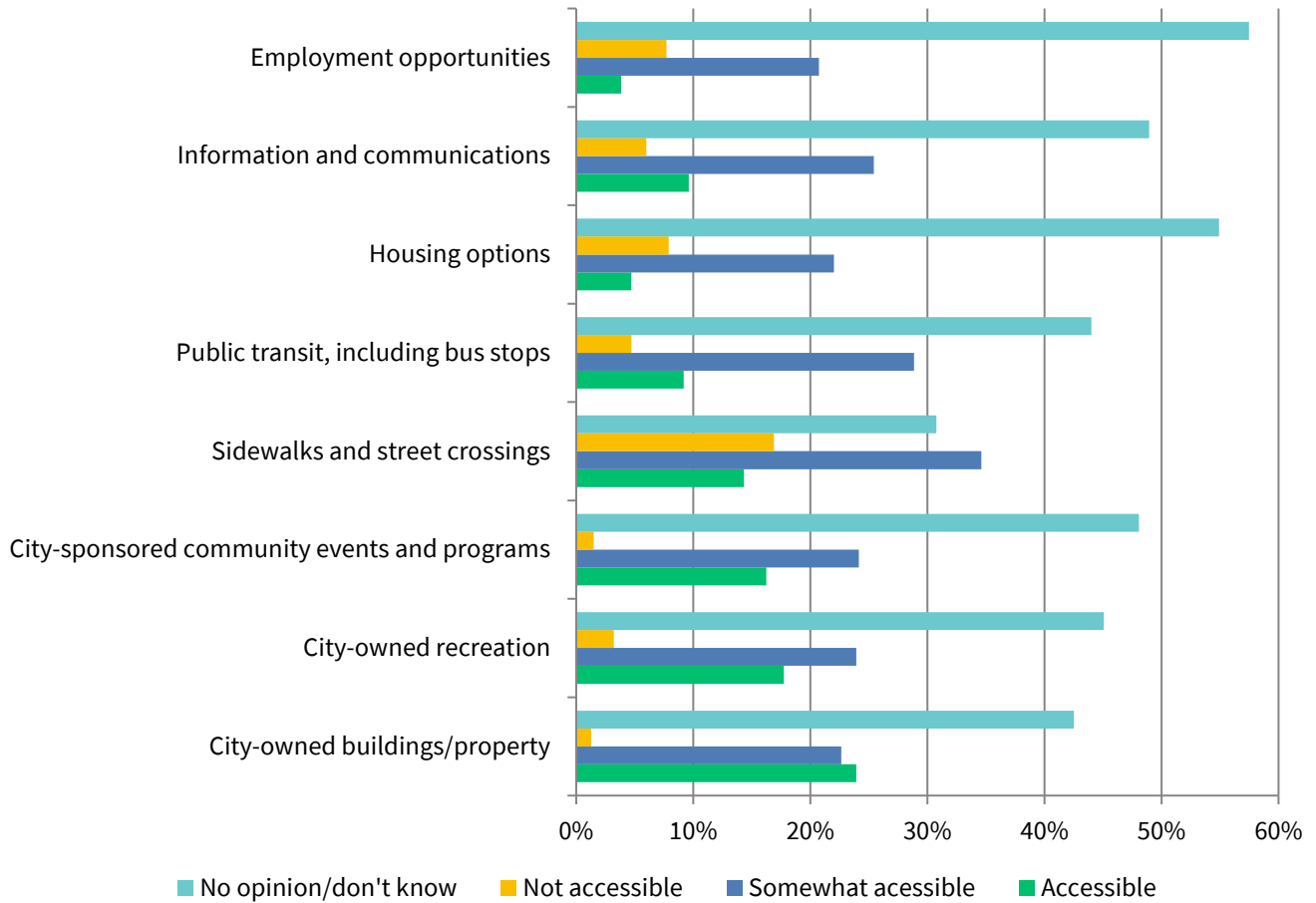
Other: Some respondents called for more community-style housing, in-law apartments, or 'Missing Middle' housing are needed in East Providence. Others said that they did not have an opinion or did not know how to answer. Some responded that no additional housing types are needed in the City.

What are your top three most important housing issues to address in East Providence? (446 responded)



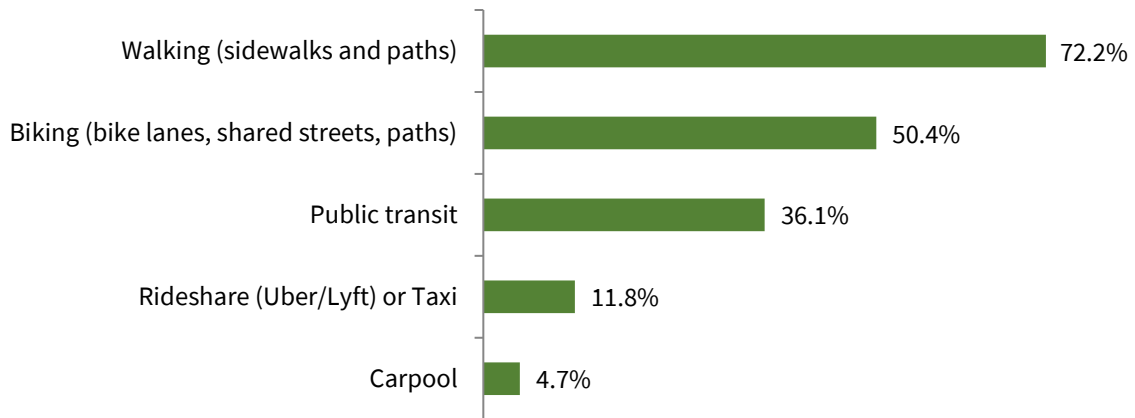
Other: Many respondents said one of their most important housing issues are high property taxes, senior housing, and residential overdevelopment. Other respondents reiterated that they had big concerns over increased utility costs and the costs to maintain homes.

For people with disabilities, how accessible are the following in East Providence? (428 responded)

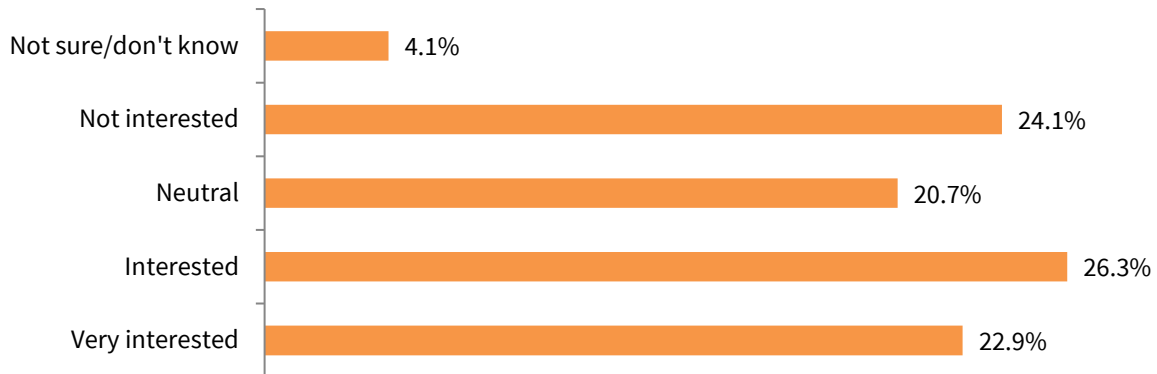


Other: Most respondents said that they do not know enough about this topic to comment. Some respondents said that buildings should be updated to ensure inclusion of those with disabilities/seniors as they age. One respondent mentioned additional seating/benches needed at bus stops.

If the City encouraged or invested in alternative transportation options, which would you like to use regularly in the future (at least once per week)? Check all that apply. (417 responded)

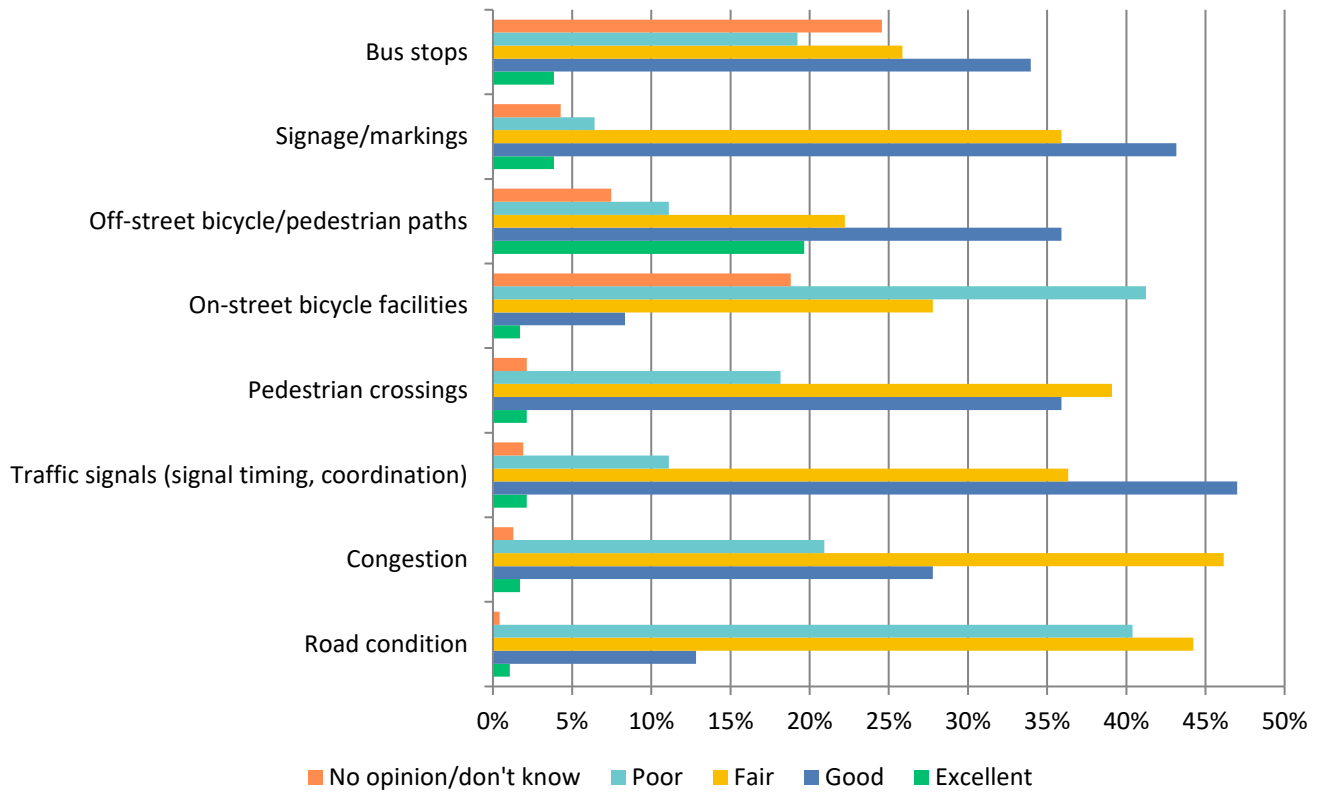


What is your willingness to use new transportation technologies (e-bike, electric car, autonomous car, autonomous bus, etc.)? (459 responded)



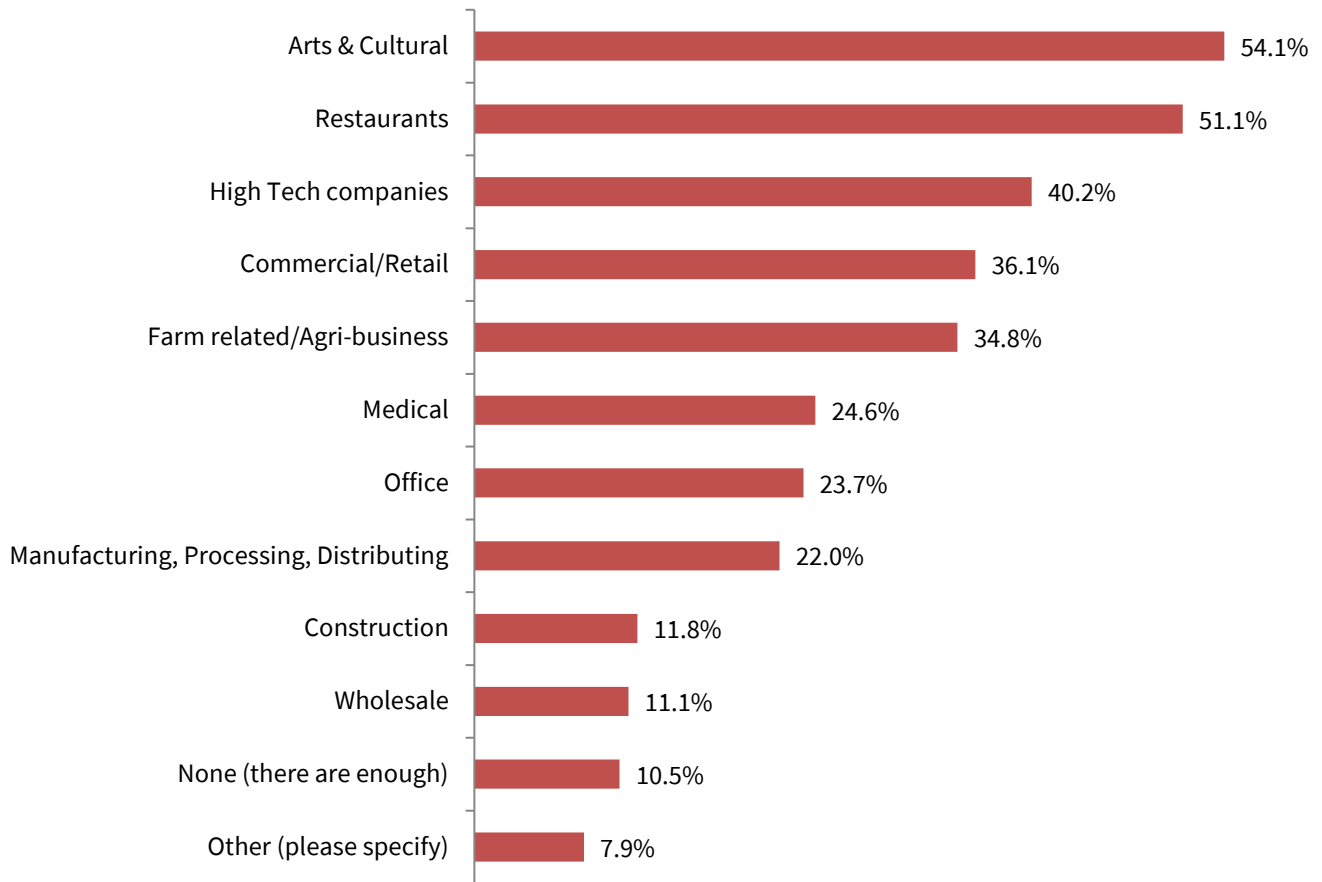


Based on your personal experience, please rate the conditions of each transportation-related item. (464 responded)



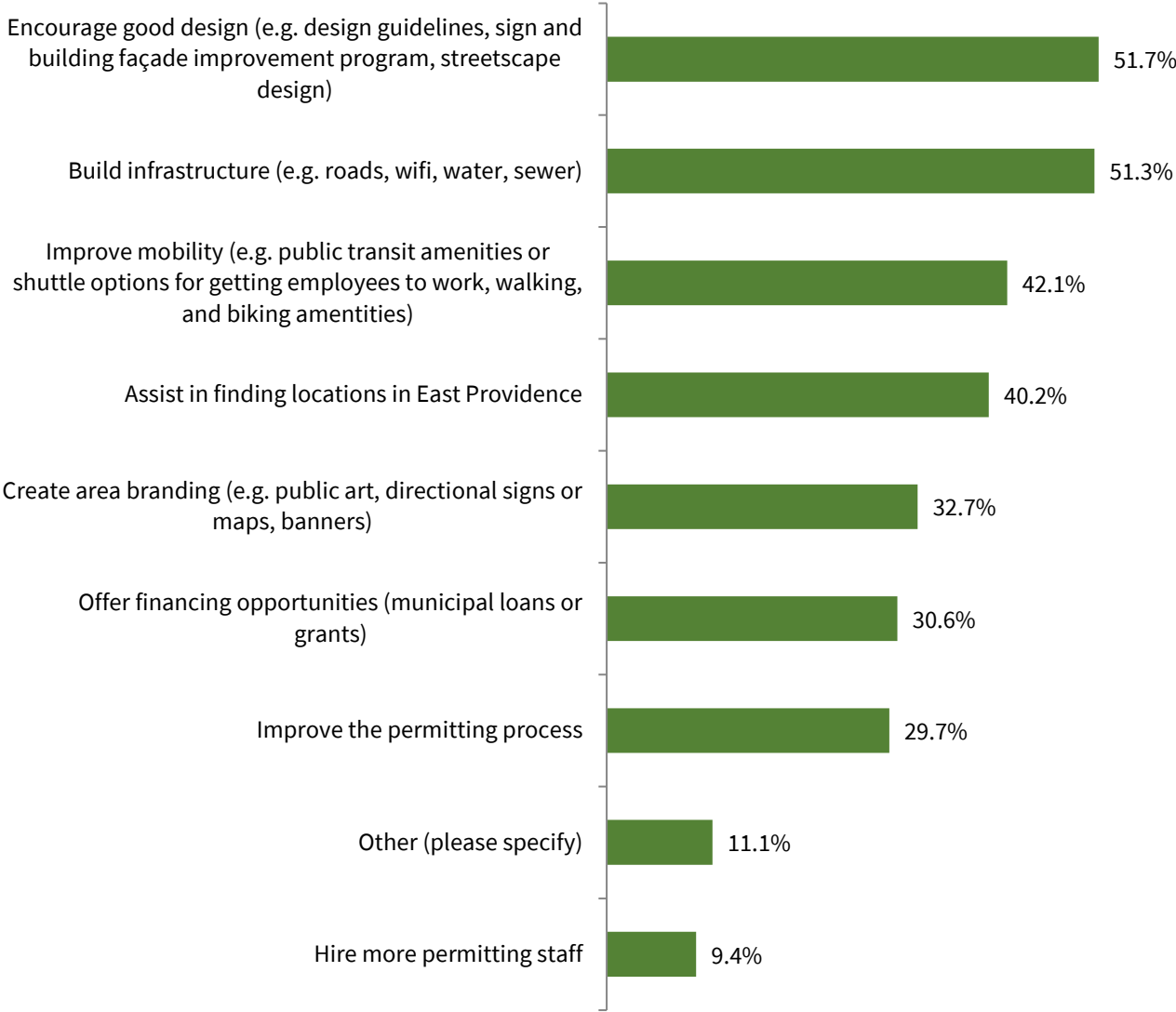
Other: Some respondents commented that there is a lot of litter around public transit stops and that a lot of the signage around the City needs upgrading. Many said they love the East Bay Bike Path. Some respondents wrote that pedestrian and bike infrastructure updates are needed.

What types of businesses or employment opportunities would you like to see in East Providence?  
Check all that apply. (452 responded)



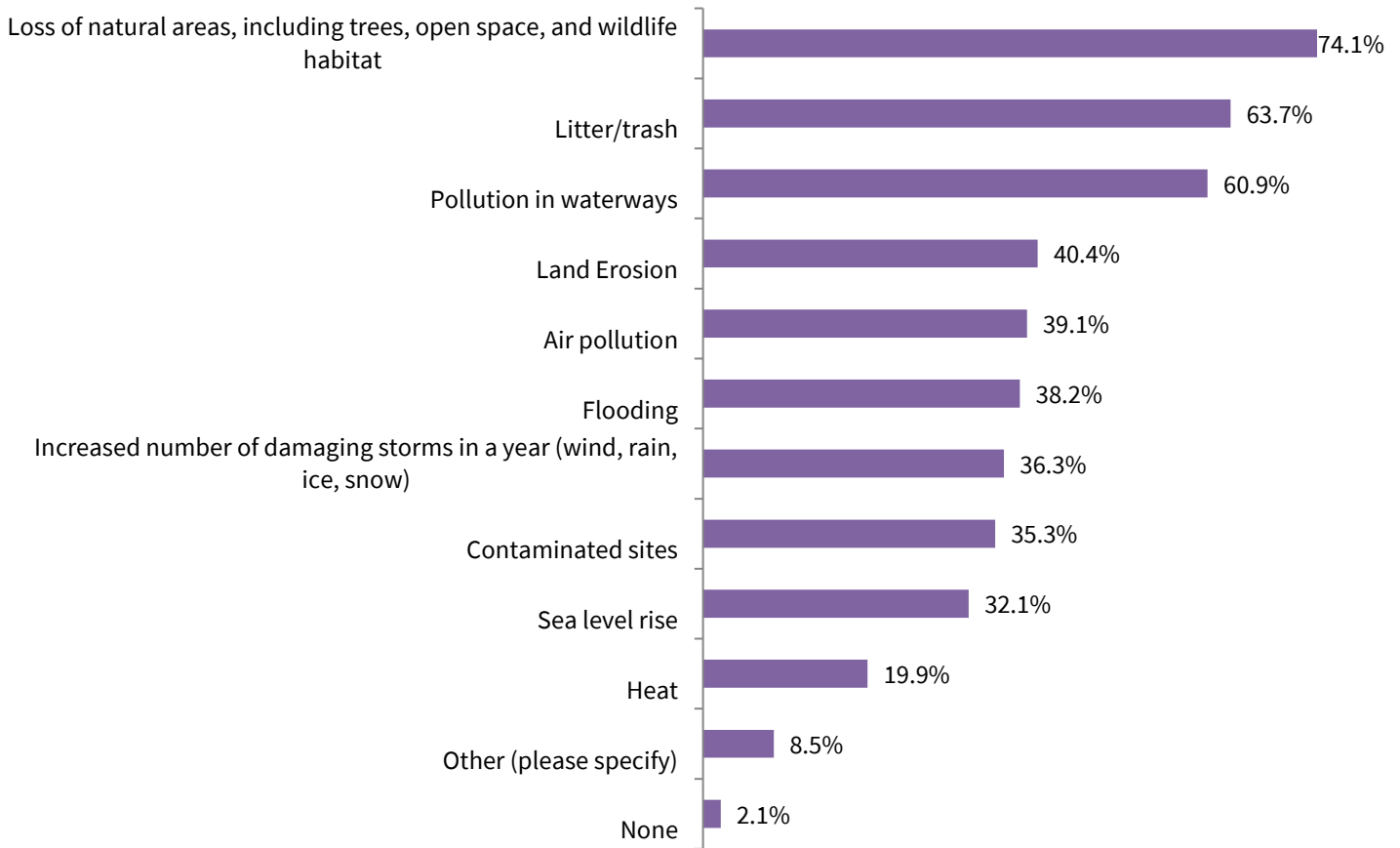
Other: Most respondents said they would like to see more small business opportunities, mixed-use residential and commercial spaces, and environmentally friendly businesses. Others mentioned they would like to have more upscale retail establishments.

In what ways should the City support the business community (existing and attracting new businesses)? Check all that apply. (432 responded)



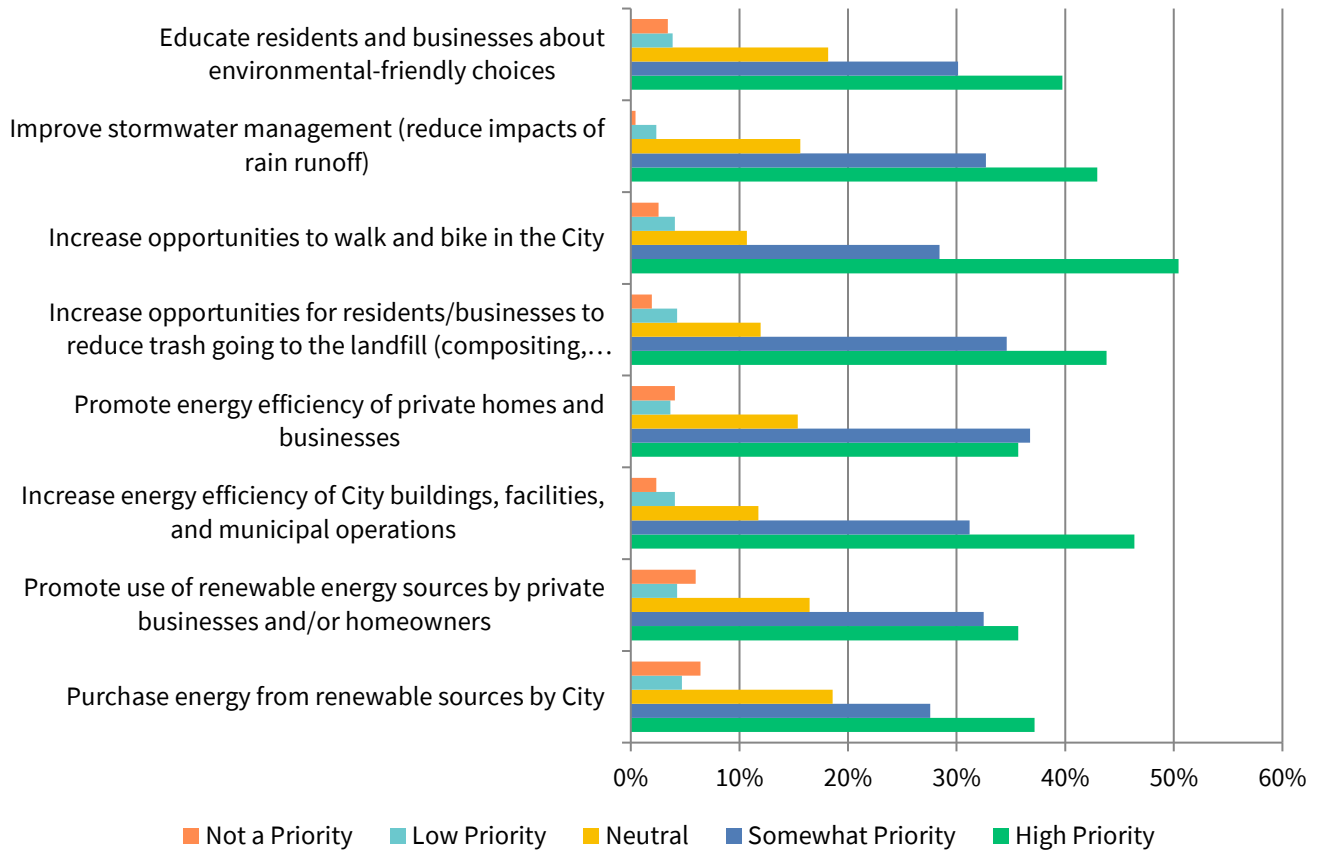
Other: Most respondents suggested giving tax breaks to small businesses and to help maintain commercial properties. Other respondents mentioned adding tax incentives for tech companies and other industries or promoting competition to encourage additional business.

What environmental issues are a concern for you in the City? Check all that apply. (459 responded)



Other: Many respondents commented that noise and light pollution are an environmental concern for the City. Others added that they are concerned about the quality of the drinking water and the odors from the wastewater treatment plant in Riverside. Some also mentioned that they are concerned about losses to the City’s tree canopy. Some respondents reiterated the loss of green/open spaces as a major concern.

What actions should be a priority for the City to address environmental issues? (457 responded)

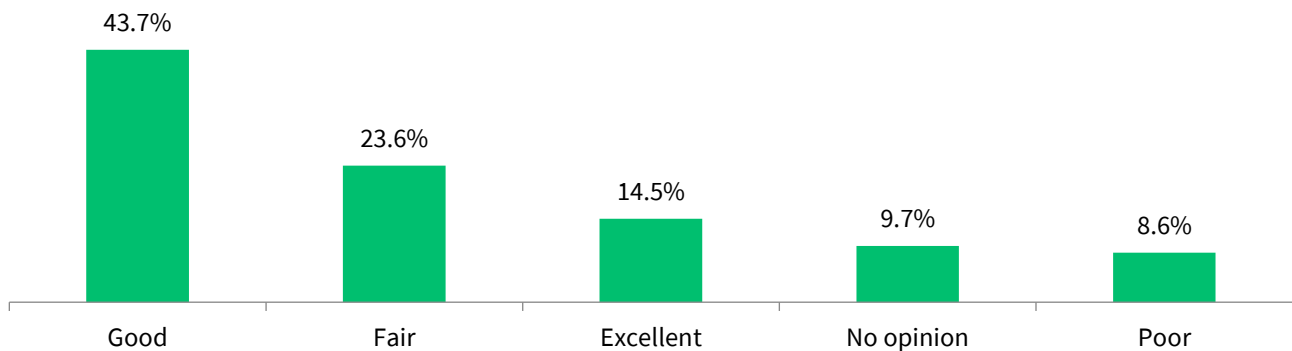


Other: Many respondents commented that they would like to see more solar panels/solar energy being used throughout the City on residential and commercial properties, as well as covered parking areas. Some respondents commented they would like to have a City-sponsored composting program and more education on recycling. Other respondents reiterated their push to make sure the City protects open and green space in the City.

## Experiences During the Pandemic

As noted, the community survey was reopened in June 2021 to give East Providence residents additional time to provide their feedback. When the survey was reopened, questions about the COVID-19 response were omitted to shorten the survey to encourage more to take the survey. Additionally, many of the questions were less pressing because vaccines were available, and people were returning to work and school in-person.

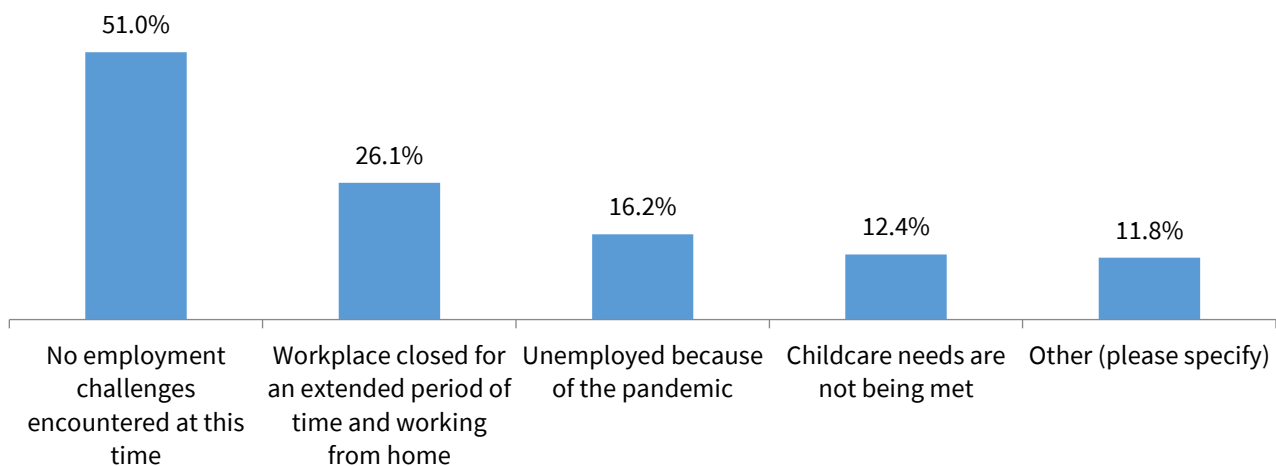
In your opinion, how has the City responded to COVID-19? (339 responded)



How can the City serve the community better during the COVID-19 pandemic (or a future pandemic)? (203 responded)

Many respondents commented the City can serve the community better during the COVID-19 pandemic or future pandemics by improving communication between the City and residents, especially for those who do not use social media. Several respondents also suggested more resources for East Providence businesses who had to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic or may have to in the future. Some respondents commented that there should be more coordination between the State and the City when dealing with vaccination rollout. See Attachment for detailed comments.

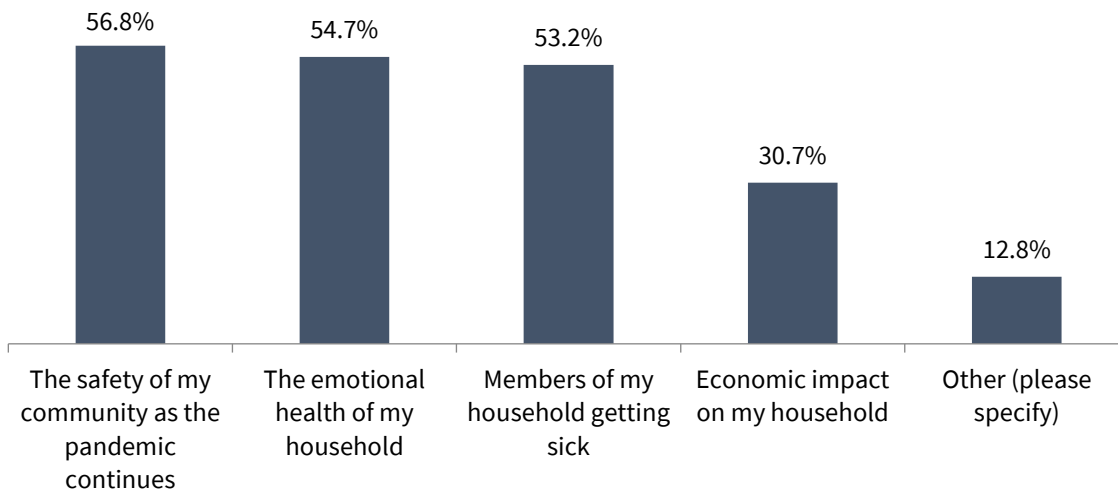
Which of these employment challenges are you or someone in your household facing/likely to face due to COVID-19? Check all that apply? (314 responded)





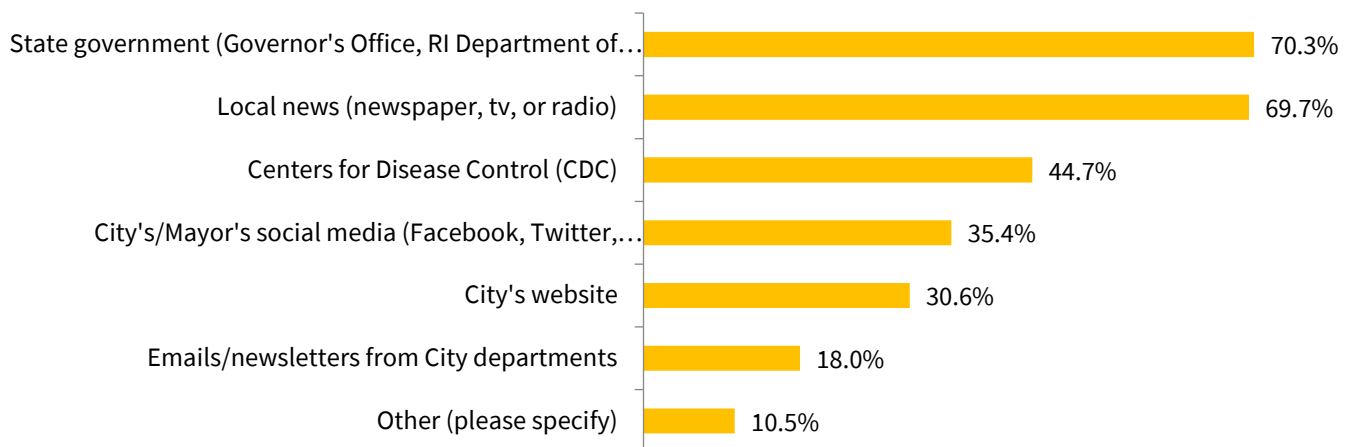
Other: Many respondents commented that they are retired and do not face employment challenges due to COVID-19. Several also commented that they have experienced significant reduction in their incomes.

What are your household's concerns right now regarding COVID-19? Check all that apply. (329 responded)



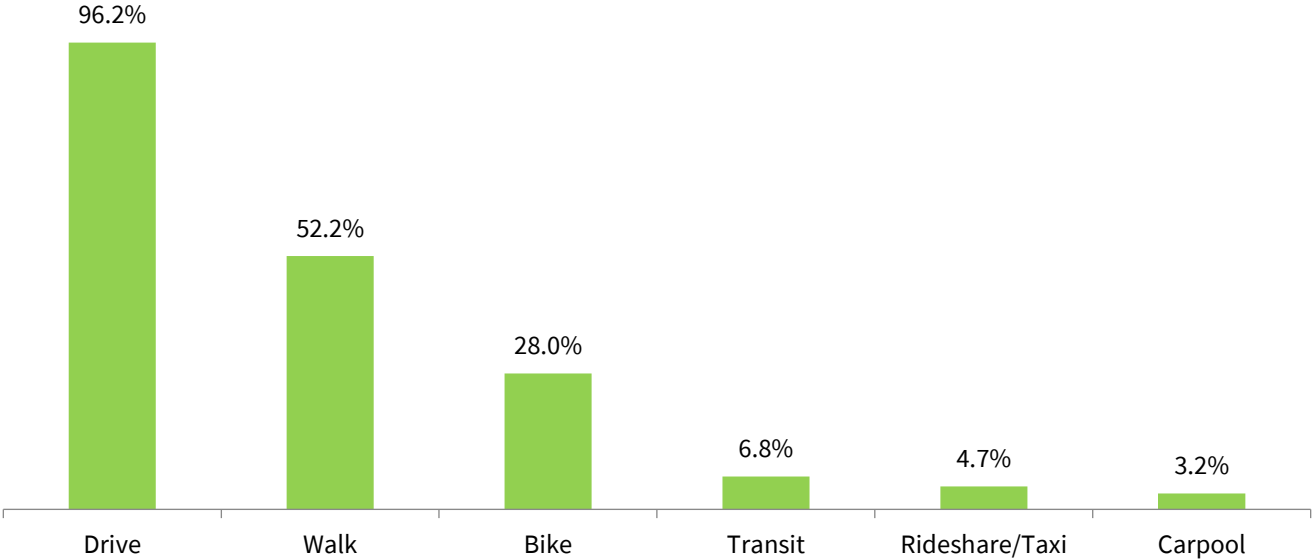
Other: Most respondents' concern's regarding COVID-19 had to do with signing up and receiving a vaccine.

What sources are you using to get information about local efforts to address COVID-19? Check all that apply. (333 responded)

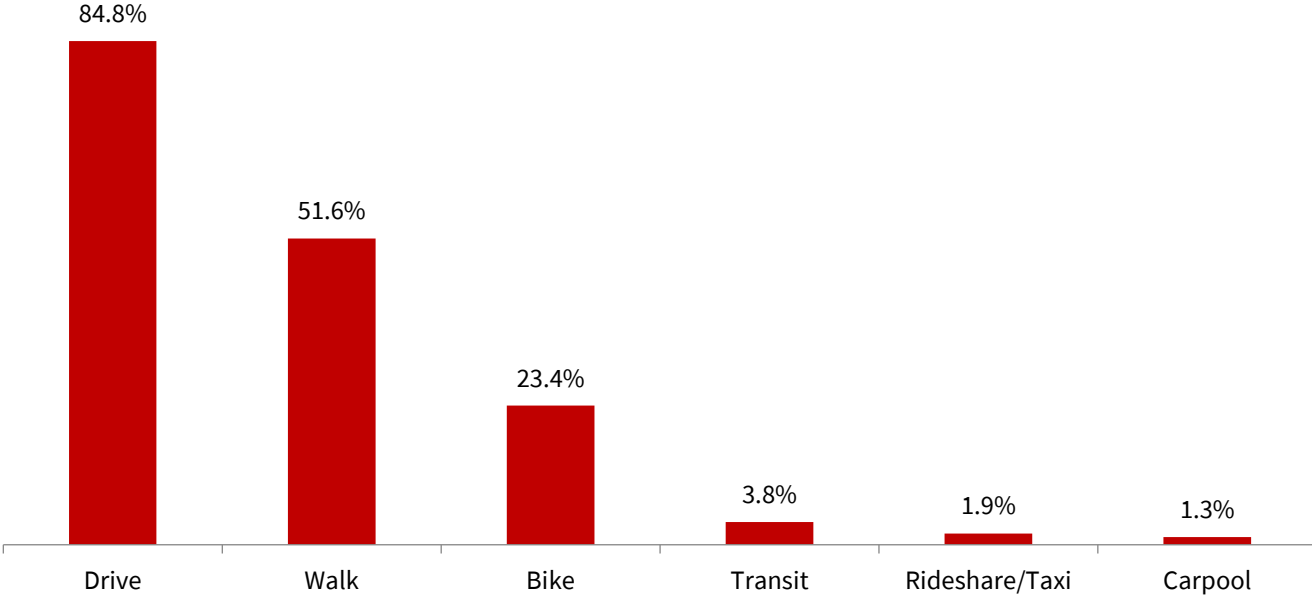


Other: Many respondents said that they received information from their place of employment, many of whom said they were in the medical field. Several also commented they received information from national and regional news outlets.

Select all transportation modes that you used regularly (at least once per week) before the work and travel restrictions of COVID-19. (339 responded)



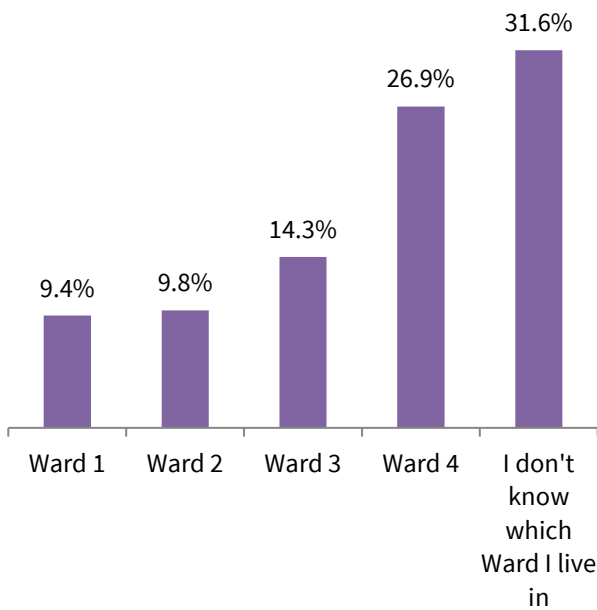
Due to the work and travel restrictions of COVID-19, which travel modes are you more likely to use regularly now (at least once per week) that previously? (316 responded)



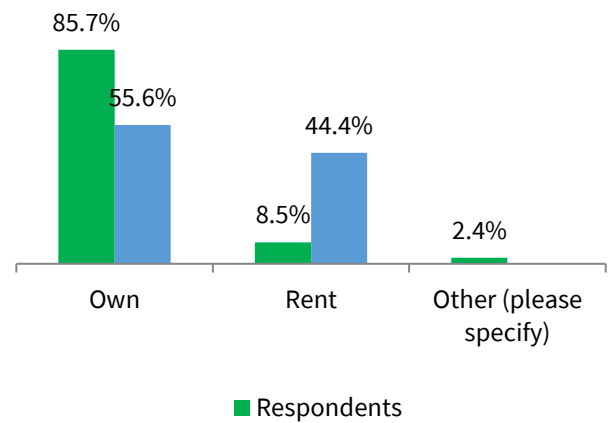
## Who Took the Survey

Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves. This helps understand parts of the community we are reaching and where we need to reach out in other ways. Comparison to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019) for the City are provided, as appropriate, to show how representative the survey respondents are to the City as a whole. The following summarizes all respondents who took the survey.

What City Ward do you live in? (431 responded)

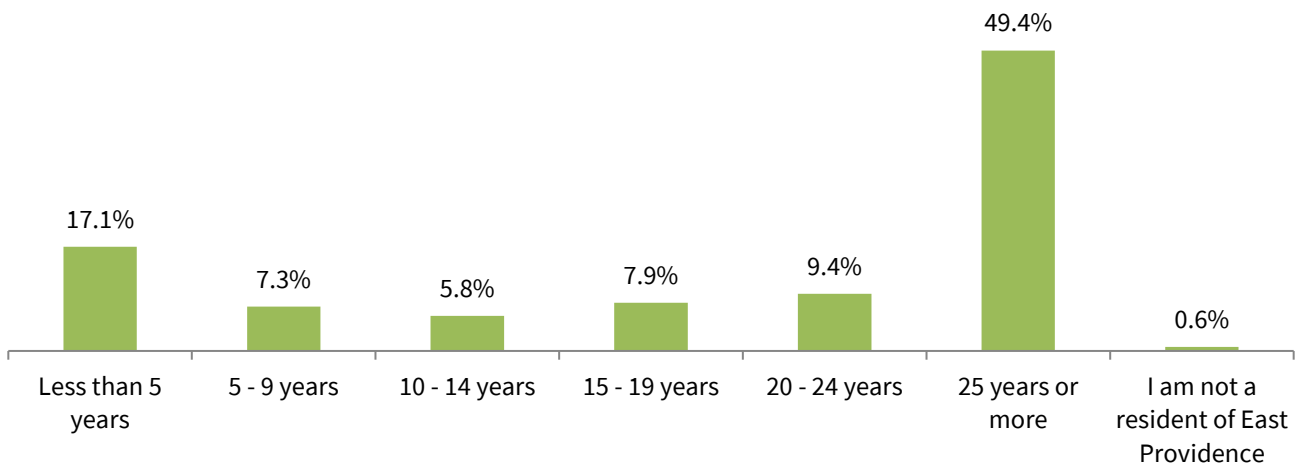


Do you own or rent your home? (452 responded)

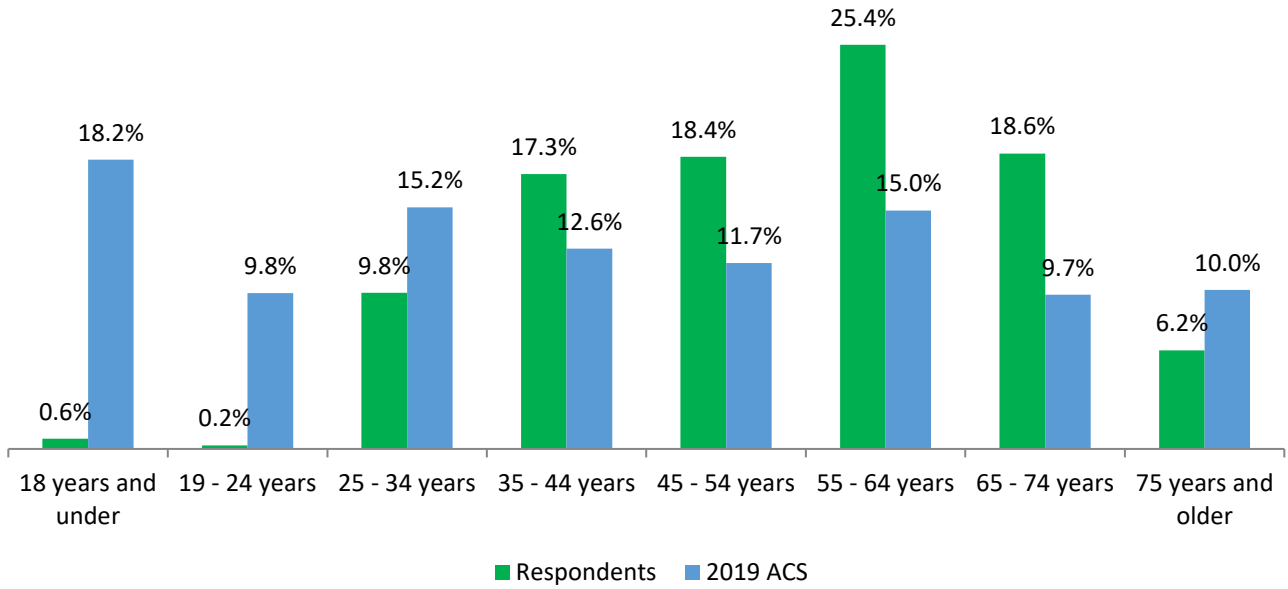


Other: Some survey respondents also mentioned that they live with a family member or do not live in East Providence.

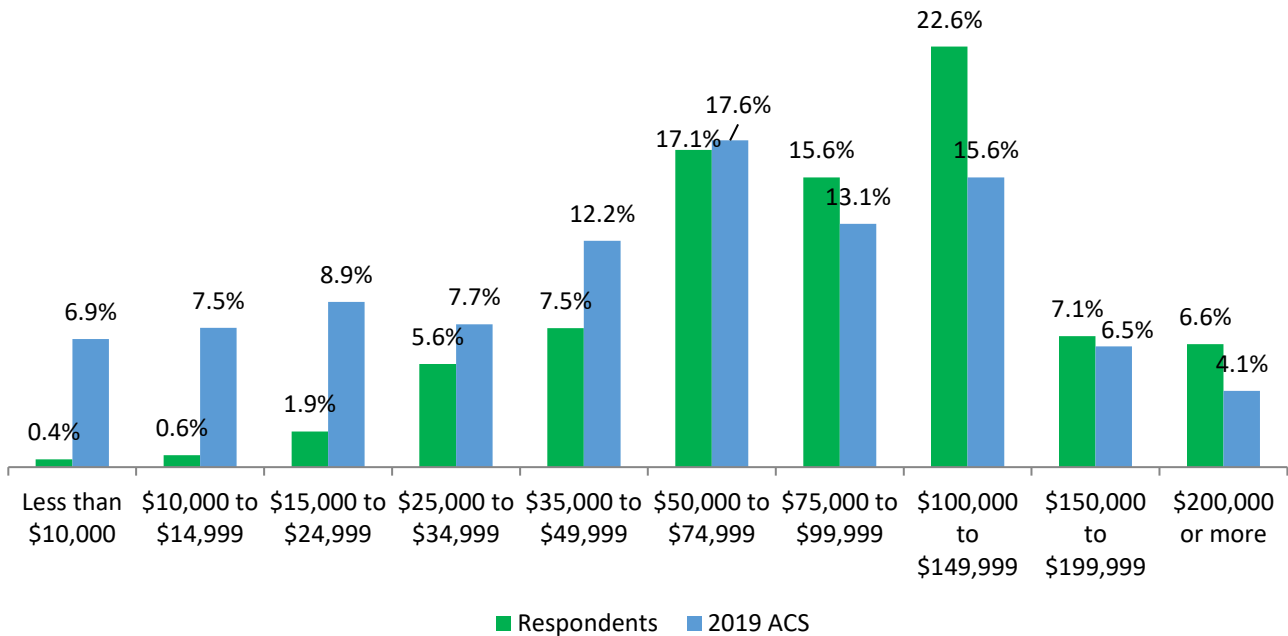
How long have you lived in East Providence? (456 responded)



What is your age? (452 responded)



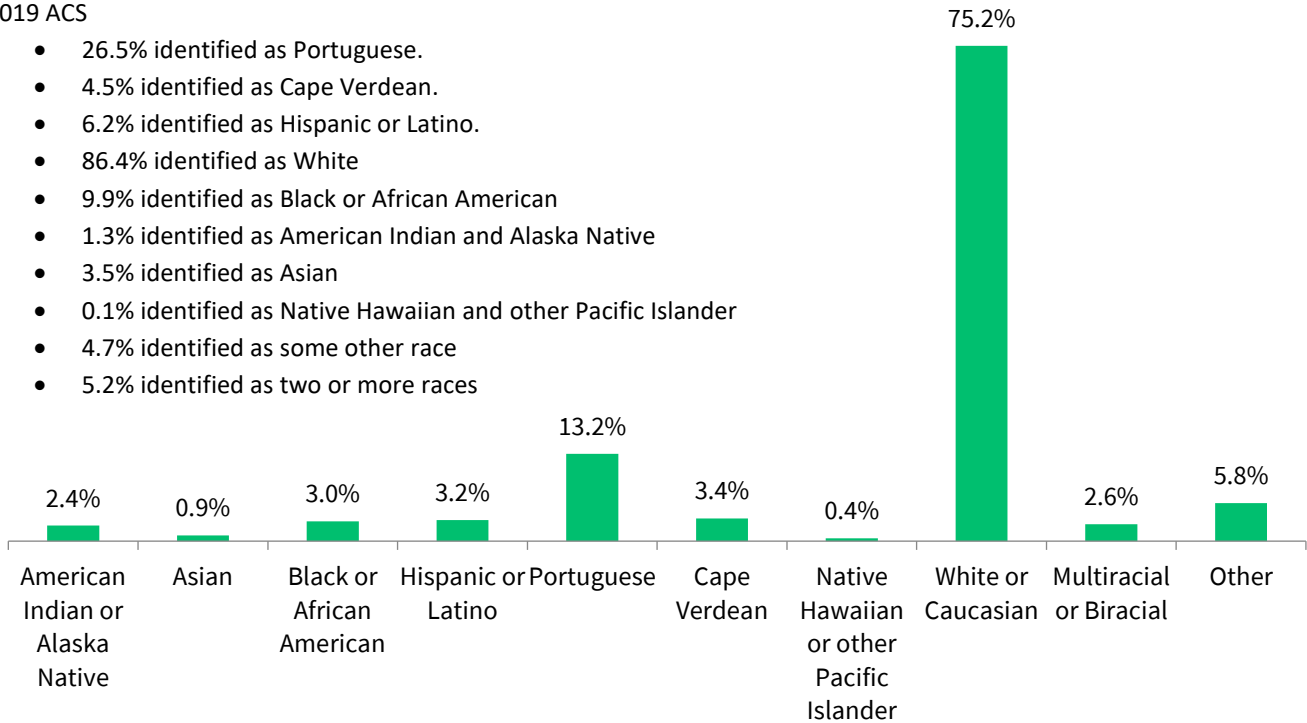
What was your total household income in 2019? (398 responded)



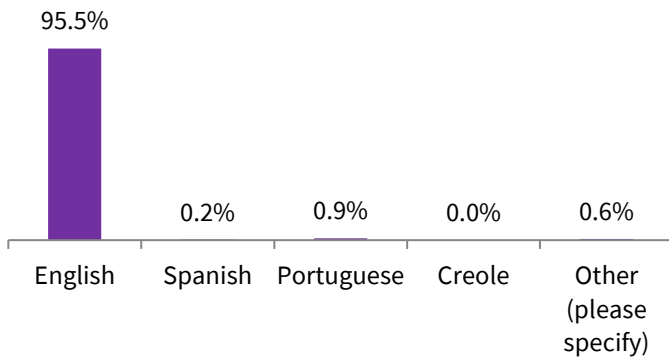
Which of the following best describes you? Check all that apply. (442 responded)

2019 ACS

- 26.5% identified as Portuguese.
- 4.5% identified as Cape Verdean.
- 6.2% identified as Hispanic or Latino.
- 86.4% identified as White
- 9.9% identified as Black or African American
- 1.3% identified as American Indian and Alaska Native
- 3.5% identified as Asian
- 0.1% identified as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
- 4.7% identified as some other race
- 5.2% identified as two or more races



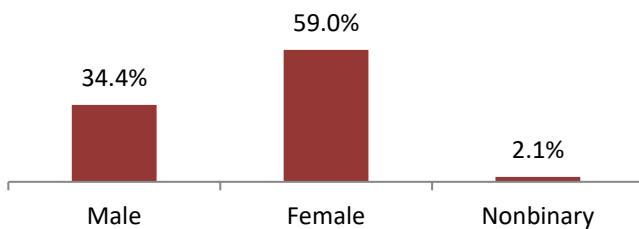
What is the primary language spoken in your home? (455 responded)



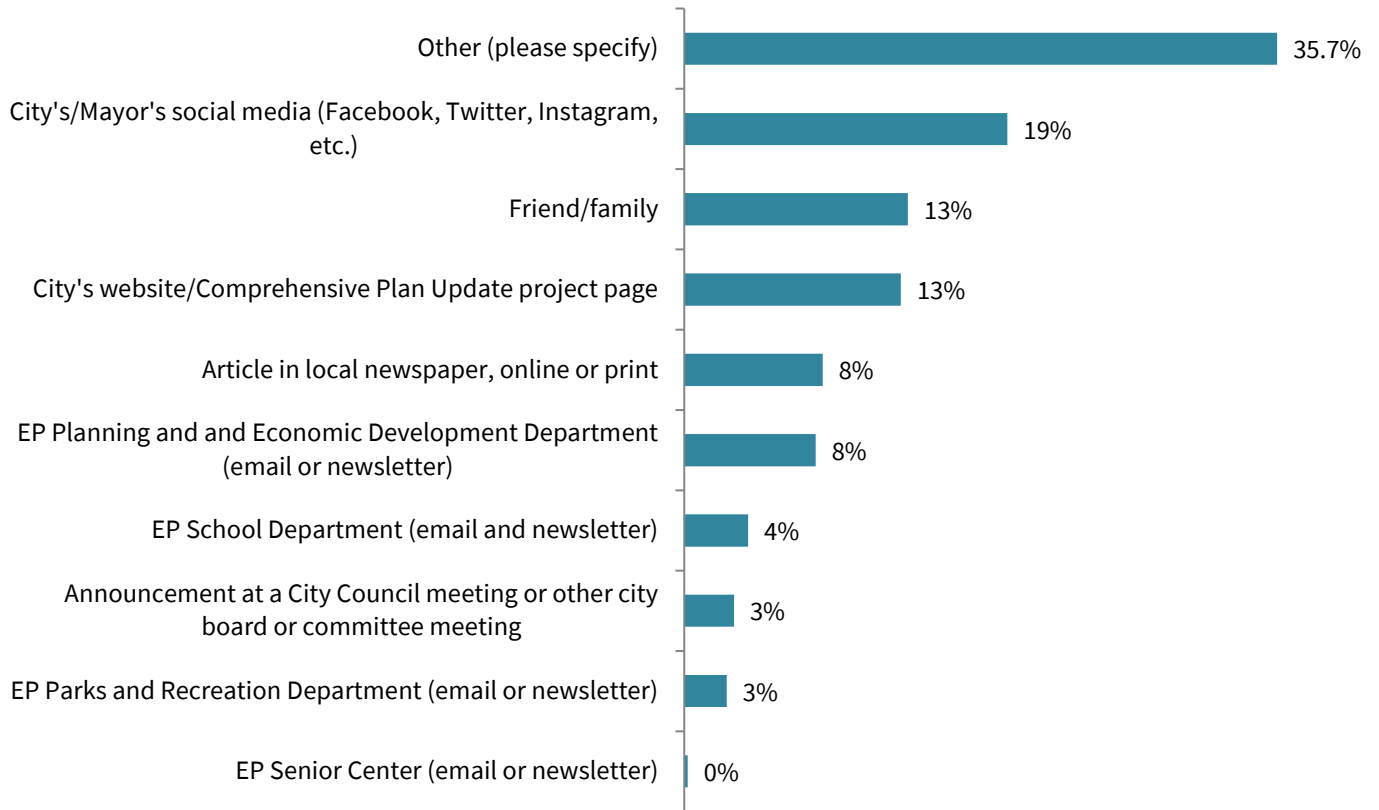
Other: Some respondents commented that they speak two or more languages equally.

The 2019 ACS estimates that 23.1% of East Providence residents speak another language at home. Of those, 4.6% speak Spanish and 16.8% speak another Indo-European language, which would include Portuguese.

What is your gender? (447 responded)



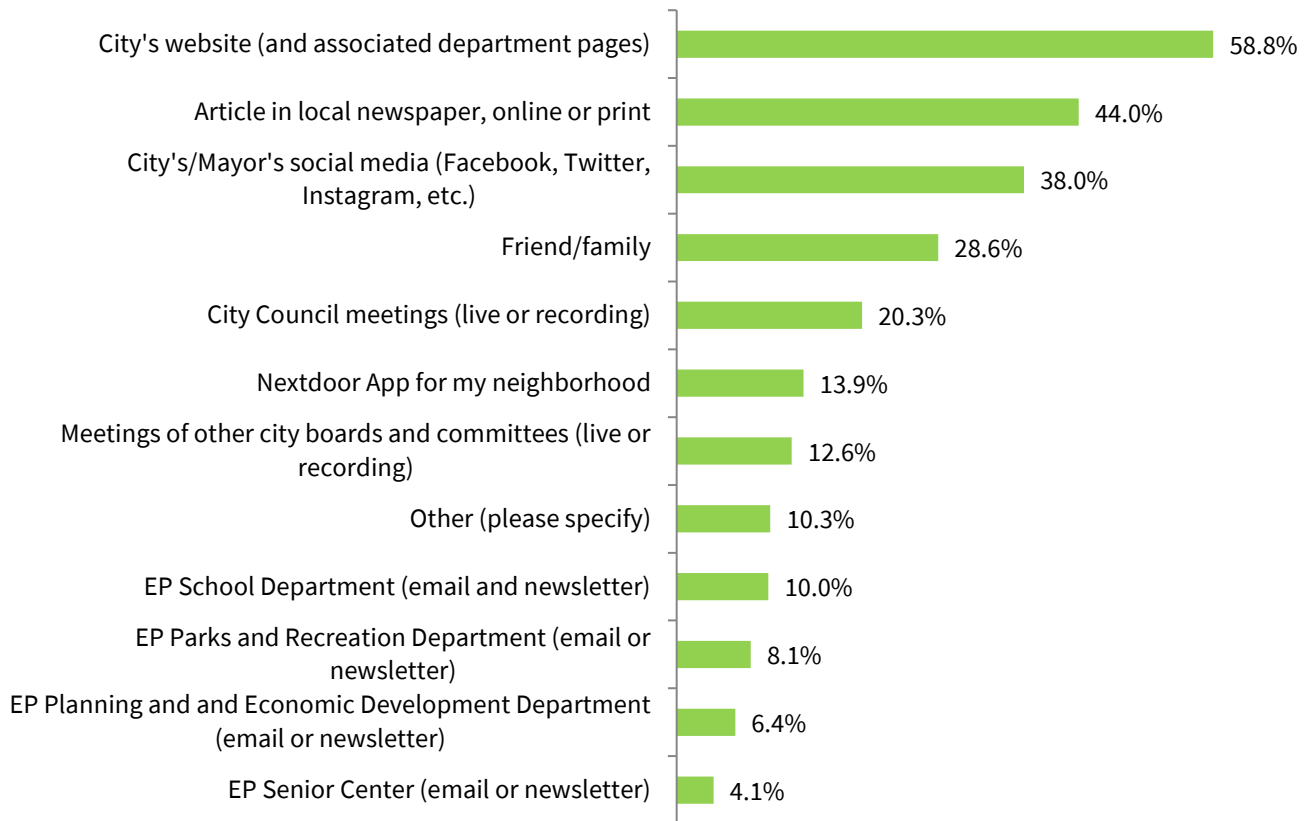
How did you find out about this survey? Check all that apply. (448 responded)



Other: Some survey respondents also mentioned that they found out about the survey through emails from the Mayor's office, from the Library, from an insert with their water bill, article in the East Providence Patch, the Riverside Renaissance newsletter, and non-City social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.).



Where do you look for information about issues in the City? Check all that apply. (440 responded)



Other: Some survey respondents also mentioned they look for information about City issues on non-City social media pages.

## East Providence Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Summary Attachment

The following lists comments received to open-ended questions of the survey. Responses are unedited and presented as they were provided.

### What are the City's strengths and opportunities today that we can build on for the future?

- La limpieza y comunicación son sus fortalezas
- Not sure.
- I haven't lived here very long, though I plan on living here for many years to come, and there are doubtless many strengths I don't know about. One that comes forcefully to mind is the mix of residential and small business neighborhoods, making EP a very good place to live and shop. It's a huge advantage to me to be able to get most of what I need within a relatively short walk or, at most, a brief bus ride. It's a good walkable city with a good distribution of amenities.
- close-up storefronts all over... need to fix that... we do have the waterfront that could be built up
- The City has beautiful parks and is a nice residential community for families.
- Enthusiastic residents that support K-12 education. Great library system Location: on Providence River and near bay Good bike path and parks Good youth sports and fields Nice senior center with good services
- Influx of young families who want play spaces and activities for their children.
- East Providence is a pretty safe place to raise kids. The streets and parks are maintained appropriately also. There is ease of access to major interstate highways.
- Community, small town feel
- The city is very diverse- racially and socio-economically.
- The city has good services from the Town Hall, EPPD, Highway Dept. to Recycling. The work being done on the road is evident and a blessing. Continued assessment of roads and maintenance of both roads and sidewalks is essential. Support for small businesses to bring "personality" to the city would be nice. We are all set with bars and taverns. I'm sure city enhancement is an ongoing matter.
- 1) Our educational system with a strong staff 2) A city that is racially integrated 3) A city with strong traditions and a long history
- Waterfront, employees, services
- close to Providence but far enough away for EPO residents to enjoy lower density buildings, people and traffic. Build
- Being retired and widowed, I find East Providence convenient. I live in a comfortable ranch and central to the shopping areas in the city and in Seekonk. The highways are also very convenient for me. The East Bay Bike path also gets lots of kudos from out-of-towners as well as local residents.
- Influx of new people, strong cultural pockets with plenty of diversity and opportunities to celebrate that diversity, new high school, location is ripe for potential
- There is generational investment in East Providence, people can more easily make a connection between decisions they make now and the impact these have on families.
- Its strengths are its shoreline, parks and its greenery..
- Our location provides an easy access to commuters
- Keep any open space open and green!
- Strong history, multicultural, close to Providence. East Providence seems like a desirable place to live right now judging from real estate market.
- Our waterfront. We do not need any other parks.
- Location location location

- EP is family-friendly and feels like a neighborhood. The city should maximize the use of empty developed lots - market them to either small business or re-develop for use as housing. EP should make every effort to preserve any open, undeveloped space that still exists in the city.
- I love that our Mayor is opening a dialogue and presenting all initiatives to us all from the various city departments.
- Save Metacomet
- Diversity & Community
- Water front
- Close to highway, theaters, restaurants.
- We have a great opportunity to keep Metacomet green. It has potential to be turned into something great for generations to come. The bike path flows right by it and so does beautiful veterans memorial park way. Such beautiful space shouldn't be wasted on mix use or blight development.
- Tight knit community
- Education and willingness to invest in facilities is a strength.
- Sense of community, water front and potential for income with beaches.
- Strengths are our beautiful water front on the bay. Also our generational family history in EP. So many Townies have lived and thrived here for generations. Our new High School is a bright spot.
- It diverse resident population and low crime
- Strong community and desire to deepen community ties
- 1. Expanding days and ways so everyone can vote. 2. Continued Zoom meetings so all meetings are able to be seen and so all may be able to participate. 3. Continue maintenance of roads. 4. Great police dept. 5. great fire department
- Our waterfront
- The new high school and the library system are the cities strengths.
- Strengths: diversity, affordability, good housing stock Opportunities: Every business corridor in EP has thousands of feet of empty storefronts; these corridors are not not pedestrian or cycle friendly. The businesses along these corridors are not businesses that encourage visiting (like restaurants, shops, and galleries). There is no apparent vision or plan for improving these corridors and making them vibrant. Instead, all the City's development seems to happen on the periphery--where no one actually lives. There is a lack of recreational amenities that are current with the times (hiking, kayaking, and pickleball are trending and there is little to no access to any of these in EP). There is no space where people and congregate, meet, and build relationships with their neighbors--which is to say, there is nothing to draw young professionals here, and nothing to keep them here. The trend is often that young people come here and leave because they have no attachment to the community AND they see a community that is not responsive to their needs.
- Having a hands on mayor that keeps us informed and updated on what's going on and happening in the city has been a big positive change in our city. Things have been brought to our attention that we never knew. It enables residence in my opinion to feel like they really belong to a community they love. Knowing when a new business opens not only promotes that business but encourages residence to support that business. All good !
- Green spaces and playgrounds that work for all ages. It would be nice to have more sitting areas away from playground areas for adults without children.
- Diversity! Green space. Community pride. public parks. City hall customer service. Libraries. Public works. When roads are repaved. Public schools (Myron and Martin) - worked hard through the pandemic. Boys and Girls club.
- The beauty of Riverside and many other sections.(These should remain primarily residential.) The new high school under construction. The ease of getting around City Hall (design of the building). The central location of City Hall with the main library. The summer market and fair at the library and outdoor concerts at Larissa Park.
- The waterfront, downtown, and the proximity to the East side of Providence, and use of the city as a health care hub from doctor offices to nursing facilities
- The waterfront in Riverside and Along the river across from Providence Empty and under-used downtown storefronts and space The library as a community resource
- Waterfront properties for development

- The fuller center, libraries, bridgepoints assistance with events, the carousel and blount shack, waterfront access at rose Larissa, sabin point and vets parkway(for now since it's rapidly being taken for the very few who can afford to live near it), the parks, small business
- The diversity of the current population.
- Inclusivity & diversity acceptance
- Community, walkability
- We have more resources and residents that care than many other neighboring communities.
- Easy access to Providence. Easy access to Rt. 6 for all my shopping needs. Ppl's passion for politics. Bradley Hospital. Housing prices lower than other towns/cities. Low crime rates. Diverse restaurants.
- We need open space and affordable homes for young families.
- New high school, strong public services like police and fire.
- City's strengths and my opinion is that I have great neighbors that look out for each others.
- The new High School. With the hope of building the new school, my wife and I moved here to East Providence, and many more will follow us. We have one Freshman this year, and our youngest daughter will be the first class to complete all four years at the new school. Very exciting.
- Good people. Active library. Parks for kids. The chrome books for kids and ability to remote when sick for school.
- Location. We are in such a good location to become a "mini providence". With all the work being done between the red bridge and veterans memorial parkway we have the opportunity to thrive. If we actually did anything about our waterfront, like for one example moving the bike path from Massasiot Ave to Waterfront Dr. To create a nice "loop" around to and from providence. This will bring business to Watchamocket Square and from there will continue to grow. We have the taunton ave stretch, Menroe Dairy, great restaurants all around and if we start having concerts again we can really bring in some revenue for this city. But we do need to clean waterfront drive up a bit. I know most of it is privately owned and a few companies operate out of the area, but under the bridges.. the bottom of warren Ave specifically is disgusting with graffiti and trash. Clean it up and get the foot traffic happening!
- The fact that the City is soliciting this feedback from residents is a strength alone. We all have good ideas on how to improve the community, so the ability to use our voice to express that in a forum where people will listen is very important. The City is also making significant improvements, including by investing in education with a brand new high school. I hope that residency requirements are enforced with the new high school. The other strength is all of the community resources that call East Providence home, including fantastic medical facilities, cultural centers, etc.
- Strengths are community. Everyone knows eachother or through eachother. We come together when needed. Keep community outreach through events especially for the children, veterans, adults with different abilities and the elderly.
- Waterfront property and great schools. Opportunities for better commercial properties to attract more businesses
- The high school
- Fixing the road at bold point park at boat ramp
- Waterfront development.
- Beautiful location with great proximity to waterfront and convenient to Providence. So many empty storefronts and parts of town that could use a facelift! Would love to see more things to do around town and more arts and entertainment - especially small local venues, not just big venues like Bold Point Park.
- Waterfront neighborhood-Parks-Communities-Small Businesses-Places of Worship-Family Friendly Safe
- A strong police force, quality and professional fire department, as well as an adequate highway services/plowing, etc. I have two children in the E.P. Schools (now in the High School.) Overall, I believe they are receiving a decent, quality education, which COVID has certainly complicated, no doubt. E.P. has a good parks system, and generally I believe a responsive and professional city hall staff. The roads/neighborhood roads are of poor/marginal quality - an area for improvement.
- Close to water, great restaurants and some nightlife, decent school system, multicultural community.

- The city has a good sense of community that positions us for success. We should definitely build on that sense of camaraderie to gain support for important beneficial citywide initiatives, and help continue to improve the city in the years to come.
- We have some vacant land around that is attached to a park, etc. We should be utilizing this land, ex: ice skating rinks in the winter, outdoor roller skating rinks in the nicer weather, bike/skate park.
- Sense of Community Low crime Location
- Access to the waterfront and parks. Bike path. Affordable housing and good schools. Strong sense of community.
- I think garbage collection & snow plowing are excellent. Parks are kept up and are relatively clean
- Finally have someone in city hall (the mayor) that listens to the public.
- Lower the taxes and water bill
- The education here is great for the kids. The whole reason I moved to East Providence is so my daughter can take advantage of the quality education provided here.
- The fire and police departments are fantastic. We have a great sense of community with the residences of our city. We have great recreational programs for our youth. More online access for registration and more advertising of these programs would be great.
- Easy accessibility to the highways. Waterfront property.
- I think the City's schools are improving and the Police and Fire departments are top notch. I think a city's duties are to provide necessary things like school, security and infrastructure, other than that they should stay out of people's lives. The city could improve on roads, water, lower taxes and better utility costs. Also continue to improve education for the children with school facility investments and reducing the number of children in classrooms.
- East Providence has strong community support. Townie pride!!!
- Availability to city sewer, water, gas, free trash pick-up, bike path and green spaces.
- I think it's helpful having a mayor like bob who's supportive of small businesses. Also, expanding on entertainment such as Bold Point Park.
- Stop overdeveloping the city. There are too many new apartment complexes being built and the city is becoming overcrowded.
- Proximity to Providence Waterfront access Large parcels of undeveloped waterfront with excellent access Relatively good access to recreational opportunity (EB bike path, river, rural areas, parks etc). New high school Bold Point Park as an entertainment venue
- Diversity. Education. Good leaders.
- The libraries are one of the biggest strengths of our community. They are well run, and offer a variety of services. We are also lucky to have a professional and highly respected fire service. We have a diverse population, which is a real strength, and offers many opportunities for inclusion.
- I think we have a good base of people who care about our city. Lets reach out and get them involved .
- Utilize water front areas.
- We have a TON of empty retail space that should be revamped and utilized before another green space is turned into a building. We need incentives for people to open businesses or remodel old empty spaces into appealing properties for rent. There are far too many open empty rotting retail spaces available to consider any more new construction. ALSO- the streets are atrocious. Pawtucket ave by the senior center is awful. So are parts of the trail. Military friends have told me they've seen nicer streets in Baghdad. We need a new website. The city's website os pretty bad. Especially when viewing from a mobile device. It's really unprofessional in appearance, difficult for some folks to navigate, and looks cheap. Not well done at ALL.
- Water front and land use. Hire people from East Providence for East Providence jobs, not lateral transfers
- You have a great police department and fire department that holds the community together. Now all we need is a decent Mayor, not the piece of trash, sad excuse for a man that is that office now. One that stomps his feet and treats people with such disrespect when he doesn't like what they have to say. I hope he has more respect for his wife than what he's shown some people of this city
- Great waterfront footprint for limitless possibilities Opportunity to preserve & enhance access to open space Strength in cultural diversity Opportunity to expand access to the arts, both visual & performing

- The cities strengths include it's waterfront location and ready access to both interstate highway and rail transportation.
- East Providence is close to the east side, Brown University all the benefits of Providence without the cost. It's got that "small town" feel. It's a great place to live and raise a family. The bike path is a real plus.
- We have only lived here for 2 years, so can't really answer that (yet).
- If you are going to enforce tenement houses to use hardwired smoke alarms that cant afford to have electricians come in to revamp their houses either change it so they are also allowed to use battery operated ones or possible help to pay for the expense of rewiring their houses. Otherwise you maybe forcing people out of their homes. There are quite a lot of tenements in the city and not all of them are slumlords!
- Waterfront everywhere! Would love to see more of it as accessible, clean, a place to have a picnic if not go for a swim. Bike path. Carousel park.
- A prime location for younger families and entrepreneurs that if done correct with foresight can be nurtured into a great community
- Safe city to live in, good school system , sense of community
- Strengths, I'm not sure. At least after 30+ years of hearing how bad it was, at least you're finally rebuilding the high school. I would like to see an improved payment system in place for water and tax bills, it feels archaic to work with a company that charges so much per monthly transaction.
- The diversity of our residents, age, race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. is such a strength. Our public spaces (Pierce Field, Onna Moniz and all the parks and the Carousel) and students are also strengths.
- Strengths. Good educational system as well as strong library system Good support of the senior population Excellent police and fire departments Good support for small businesses Opportunities Waterfront property development
- Communication build more community events
- Strong municipal agencies; new high school and emerging business development
- The city has a small town feel with lots of personal support in neighborhoods. There are some nice parks, good schools and businesses.
- Building the new high school is a huge strength. This will make East Providence more desirable for families to move here.
- We've got the bay. One of the biggest opportunities is Metacomet Golf Course. If instead of a strip mall with luxury housing and all the boring unimaginative things that are ruining many cities, why not pursue transforming it into farmland that can produce high quality, nutrient dense food for local residents and anyone else who wants to travel here? There's more than enough land and a few hoop houses can extend the growing season well into the cooler months. Plenty of \$\$\$ and volunteer opportunities for residents, school groups, what have you. This would be paying it forward in many ways.
- Robust neighborhood identities.
- The beautiful bike path. The proximity to the Bay and to Providence. The many various neighborhood centers.
- The current administration's enthusiasm for a better East Providence. Having new ideas to shake things up in positive ways.
- Strong community, water views, bike steps path. Carousel is really cool
- Easy waterfront access, such as Sabin Point and Bold Point Park, nice bike trail system, safe neighborhoods.
- None
- townie spirit
- Make use of the waterfront for recreational access.
- The City has several gems: the East Bay Bike Path, the public libraries, Pierce Stadium, Rosa LaRisa Park, the new high school, all which provide opportunities for residents to live a rich life and to improve their quality of life. I think that these features, along with the more reasonably priced residential real estate do a good deal to attract young families to buy homes in East Providence.
- Riverfront location with opportunities for open spaces for public use. Agawam, Metacomet and Wannamoissett, four premier golf courses are strengths kept as open space. Historic architecture and cemeteries give EP significant character. Mature tree canopy should be a priority to keep and enhance. Opportunities exist to clean up Narragansett Bay.



- Strengths: Schools, libraries, parks, first responders, municipal services and the personnel that service the residents of East Providence. Opportunities: The new high school is an opportunity to be a leader in the state in secondary education. Keeping Metacomet Green is a wonderful opportunity to maintain green space, provide income for the city, and provide unmatched recreation for residents.
- Our open spaces, green spaces, our small parks places to get outside, We should embrace the East Bay bike path it is our biggest park
- The underdeveloped waterfront and Metacomet areas. They can be used to grow the community, small businesses, and culture of East Providence.
- Waterfront, taking advantage of it.
- Close to downtown Providence Close to major highways
- New High School Waterfront expansion for live music Clean up of beach front (near future)
- strong sense of community
- Diversity, to be honest I don't see a lot of opportunity.
- Parks and LibrariesYouth
- location is great : on the water and close to providence
- The new High School let's get the most productive people in place to bring our children to the next level so we can be the one of the strongest school system in the state if not the strongest.
- The strength is it's a lovely place to live. There's some really nice greenspace that allows my family to feel like we have the best of both a city life and a quiet life. Having only been here half a year, I still feel I'm in the honeymoon phase so I don't have any complaints at this point. That said, I moved in right as the sale of the golf course happened which having that stunning area with the bike path was one of our selling points, so I'd like to see us conserve our beautiful balance of greenspace and cityscape.
- Being in a good fiscal position to maintain and improve the city. The location in relation to natural resources, urban areas, rural areas, and access. Green/outdoor spaces for recreation and health. Good communication(for the most part) with citizens.
- Redevelopment of the waterfront closer to providence. Not neighborhood areas. Continued improvement of abandoned sites. Economic development for commercial areas, riverside square, Warren and Taunton ave. Put in a city sports complex that generates revenue. Pool, hockey, etc. rent for tournaments and admission to cover costs. Put a pier back at crescent park.
- Waterfront. Deep water harbor. Tremendous potential to develop port activity which will intern create good paying jobs.
- safety, nearness to highway and access to services.
- N/A
- waterfront, large workforce
- A willing workforce. A new high school that will prepare new workers for future jobs. Fabulous waterfront.
- Waterfront property along the Seekonk river through Bold point. Many dilapidated buildings there have the potential for renovations into condos, breweries, restaurants and other shops that could bring in tax revenue for the city. The proximity to the East Side of Providence makes it an attractive destination for tourism.
- Excellent location adjacent to Providence, waterfront access, decent amount of undeveloped green space, community diversity.
- Great location in regards to travel. Beautiful new High School coming soon. Good citizens who believe in their city and want it to grow for the people.
- Community character and traditions.
- Proximity to Providence; relatively low crime & poverty level
- I moved to Riverside 5 years ago and what attracted me was the green and open spaces along Veterans Parkway and its proximity to the ocean. Sadly, some of that open space -Kettle Point- has been built over and one of East Providence's landscaped gems -Metacomet- may be destined to the same fate.
- As an urban, coastal space, EP has the opportunity for a reputation as a destination, like East Greenwich, for restaurants and shopping with a view. We need to pull our coast from private industrial usage into a sustainable green, public space that will increase property values, tax revenues and our quality of life.
- Reasonable access to providence where more jobs may be available

- Building on the city's recreational spaces including the waterfront and bike path.
- I think it is a safe place to live, I see focus on taking care of the green spaces, communication with residents is good
- There is a vast majority of people in the city that are all about the community of our city, Townies. We have to keep up that momentum. The new high school is a definite asset.
- Water front, bike path, some interesting small businesses are starting up.
- I am relatively new to the city, so still exploring EP, but here is what I see so far and why I love it so much! Beautiful community, well kept and maintained, residents have a strong sense of community and pride. I live in Riverside and feel like I live in a quaint little village. There is such easy access to all kinds of businesses. Everything you could possibly need/want is right around the corner so it's easy to see why you never have to go too far to find EVERYTHING you need. I love the amount of police presence in the city. I feel safer here than in my former residence (Cumberland). The many services provided to the tax payers is impressive. I feel like we get a lot of bang out of our tax dollars. Lots of open spaces; well maintained parks and recreational areas to enjoy. Beautiful vistas! So much to love. I'm glad I came here to live.
- There is a strong sense of community, even though it isn't always apparent. It is the type of city that many find themselves back in, or run into people they haven't seen for a long time - it's that kind of place. That sense of community and familiarity in residents needs to build, and become a stronger sense of our core values. I don't have children, but feel a sense of "Townie Pride" because I grew up here. How could you make me feel like part of the city if I don't have children in the school system? Professionals, people with dogs, etc - These folks need to have a desire to live and work here too.
- Slater Park; five-mile greenway; Brigham Farm: large, open green spaces. Proximity to downtown Providence. Designated neighborhood feel. East Providence is a place that feels like it can support small and independent businesses.
- There is a true community of Townies who are sooooo proud of this City and are constant cheerleaders. We are well-positioned to highways to Providence, Boston, the Cape Our public services are well functioning and if there is a glitch, a call will make it right (except the tree trimming - they make some ugly trees when they only trim from the center around the wires) I think we should look to tourism - can we build small hotels?
- Access to the river and the bike path
- EP has a Great Location, Close to the Center of Population, without all of the issues that plague The Capitol City. EP has a good Quality of Living.. needs to advertise that more !
- Schools, green space, recreation
- 1) strengths are the residents. Lower taxes/incentives to keep homeowners in the city just like the city does for businesses 2) our schools however, they must be maintained regularly
- Outside of its' good location, I feel that many residents stay here through the years, and they want to, which I think is a good thing.
- Access to the water! The bike path. It is very kind that weekend bikers don't have to pay to park on Veteran's Parkway as they use the path. Some tried and true small businesses that bring neighborhoods together.
- Excellent golf courses, Squantum Woods hiking trail, wildlife including wading birds, owls, eagles, Crescent Park, Rumford's important history back to 1600s, Sabin Park, historic structures throughout EP add character, tree canopy for beauty, healthy environment, noise and pollution buffer, well kept historic cemeteries add historic interest and keep open space, much acreage along waterfront should be parks, Riverside's history with historic oceanfront character, Portuguese bakeries and restaurants, Mom and Pop restaurants, lack of strip malls and ugly commercial strips, good library
- strong sense of community that supports local business - great local access - city does have all that you need for work, living, and entertainment
- the willingness to build on old and new opportunities the desire to keep old structures to start a new life
- it's strength is that EP is a tight knit community.
- no comment
- Reduce unneeded expenses
- Historic places/landmarks that are appreciated and maintained. It's a city of various sections and encompasses residential areas, bikepath and parks for walking or just enjoying the weather, as well as places like the

Metacomet Country Club that I hope can be somehow preserved and maintained as a historic place for future generations to enjoy.

- EP is a small city, with affordable housing and quick access to Providence. Market the city to young people working in Providence to increase the residential tax base.
- East Providence is a united community of friends and neighbors.
- We need better public schools, road infrastructure, utility services that are consistent. Our public works are good.
- Emphasis on neighborhoods . We also have a lot of riverfront property that I hope we can be more creative in upgrading. The Metacomet plan adopted could have been something including public lands, homes and business establishments
- Waterfront New High School Big city - small town charm
- Location and History!
- Excellent local small businesses. Good neighborhoods.
- Family Friendly, safety New High School
- #1- shoreline (although it could use improvements) #2- proximity to Providence, Newport, shopping areas in Seekonk #3- green space (could use improvements)
- Strengths are location and fiscal stability. Opportunities are in the area of recreation and quality of life.
- Substantial mix of ethnic & racial citizens, probably more diverse than any other community except Providence. This usually results in a broader range of ideas concerning various issues and more intuitive solutions to resolving problems.
- We have a great location along the bay, a beautiful bike path, a diverse community of people, and we are small enough to have a hometown feeling. Townies!
- A killer waterfront potential. A thriving arts/ preservation community. A new city management team. A working community representing many cultures. A new high school with the possibilities of a better overall school system
- Strong community feel.
- Tight knit community on the waterfront with history. Continue to improve waterfront access for the public. Keep Metacomet c.f. Was a green space for the community.
- Waterfront, open space, bike path
- Great place to live. We need to control development. We need to take a serious look at overdevelopment IE: Metacomet Country Club.
- Small town w/city services and townie pride
- Coastal areas proximity to Providence
- close to downtown
- Strengths: Waterfront location, proximity to Providence, Veteran's Parkway beauty and ease of commute, bike path, small affordable housing. Build on: Preserve green spaces, save Metacomet, environmentally sensitive waterfront development. More small businesses and start ups in unused commercial buildings.
- Unobstructed water front and wide open spaces.
- Our natural and great water front. We are in the process of a major transformation from a industrial 50's through 80's. To a well thought out plan for what is right for our people and the future of the city .
- Good community involvement and traditions.
- Proximity as a suburb to the city and many shopping areas, while still being a quiet, peaceful and safe residential area.
- Strength new high school.
- Keep open space
- Good access to interstate highways and seaport. Good public utilities.
- Saving green space is important for our future you have an opportunity to save green space. Take it
- Location, extensive undeveloped waterfront
- A mixture of quiet living with enough businesses in certain areas
- Strengths, diversity. It's a friendly community.

- The location of EP is excellent. Extremely poor road conditions, water quality, and need for preservation of green space.
- Our libraries are fantastic, especially Weaver with its history, and beautiful lawn, and rain garden. The bike path, and Veteran's Memorial Parkway drive, tree lined near water. Keeping places green, and utilizing the empty space and storefronts that have been sitting too long.
- 1. The new high school and building a strong community of learners 2. Keeping Metacomet open green space. People all over the country are trying to protect green space. 3. Our library system and programs 4. Our many small businesses
- Cleaning up what it already here. The sidewalks are in poor conditions with overgrown vegetation. Roads can definitely be better, and some buildings are in need of a face lift.
- The people who live here care about their properties and the city properties. We are starting to upgrade our schools with a state of the art high school to be opened this year. There are many small businesses and citizens support local business. We value our children and provide playgrounds, various sports teams and have plenty of space to accommodate anyone who wants time in nature.
- Develop waterfront. Generational population. ( people stay here ) Great police / fire departments
- Build on green space and affordable housing. Arts. Beaches!!!
- We need to save our last major open green space at Metacomet. No excuses are acceptable to letting this irreplaceable property slip away from EP. A park would be the ideal use but at least keeping it as a golf course will preserve the critical open space.
- location, on the water, diverse community
- Coastal beauty, potential for waterfront development
- Development of Metacomet.
- A strong sense of East Providence as a community with pride in our children and our various heritages. We have a good financial status since the state reorganized our budgeting process. An elected mayor will respond directly to the people and be accountable to us, rather than 5 council members. The east Providence Arts Council will bring greater vibrancy of art and culture to our community.
- Keeping our green space including Metacomet. More outdoor kids programs.
- No shortage of people willing to work for the city.
- Our waterfront, and our proximity to Providence.
- Proximity to Providence Proximity to waterfront
- East Providence strengths are involving the community and keeping us informed in various platforms. Today's opportunities is to assess how we have been doing things. And how the city can be more efficient in all departments by eliminating waste, to maximize tax payers money to improve the city.
- Location; strong school system
- The city is home to a wonderfully diverse community, and also features great waterfront locations throughout that can be improved upon.
- New High School, housing being built,
- Low crime
- Ethnic diversity and civic pride.
- Very active with social media. A D letting the public know
- Sense of togetherness
- Small businesses
- One of the great strengths of our city is the diversity of the population. Another is being on the water.
- Many properties with beautiful potential
- back to senior center, library opened
- The city has an extensive waterfront with two areas in particular perfect for marinas, boatyards and restaurants. The Providence River area beneath the Washington Bridge and Bullock Cove. Also, many smaller areas along the waterfront like Sabina Point and Crescent Park Beach. In addition there's plenty of room for economic growth for industrial areas as well as much undeveloped land for open spaces.
- Build on riverfront access. Too much is undeveloped and an eye sore. Strong commercial and industrial tax base to provide revenue.

- \*EP is a seaside community (grossly underutilized) \*EP Has more of a "town" vs "city feel" \*Opportunity to PRESERVE & EXPAND GREEN SPACE \*Opportunity to revitalize EXISTING unused retail space creatively, ie housing
- The location close to Providence, highways and the bay.
- Close proximity to Providence for employment, restaurants, water fire, Brown and RISD, other cultural offerings. A long potentially beautiful coastline. A nice sense of community with more affordable housing.
- Location. Proximity to East Bay. Proximity to Providence. Access to East Bay Bike Path. Access to 195 and 95.
- Waterfront. Dead storefronts.
- The waterfront.
- Waterfront. Bike path. Close to Providence.
- The bike path has many people riding through ---would be nice to have more places of interest to stop along the way---such as Riverside Square with shops and the arts ---such as a Wickenden Street on the East Side. (Borealis Coffee Shop is a great start) Laurissa Park is a gem ---would be nice to have more activities there in summer months.
- We are a waterfront city where the citizens have little waterfront access. It's bizarre. Build parks on the waterfront and watch home prices go through the roof. We also need to tap into the T in Attleboro.
- The east bay bike path and abundant coastal access hold the biggest opportunities for future growth, happiness and prosperity of the city.
- Bike path, ease of access to Providence and points south. Great parks but there could be more programming and attention to the parks.
- Stability, proximity to Rhode Island amenities; i.e., Providence, arts, history, waterfront, access to highways and shopping, cultural diversity
- East Providence does not feel like a city. It is small neighborhoods, nice trees and having most of our tall and larger building only on Rte 44. The developments on the parkway are horrific. The apartment houses at Kettle point are ugly and too large for the space. The medical building does not belong on the Parkway. I fear as to what might happen to Metacomet.
- Safe, diverse, friendly, well-maintained and mostly clean.
- The Waterfront. Obviously, this is not anything new. The glacial pace in bringing good business into the East Providence Waterfront is a travesty. Our shoreline along the Providence River should be filled with top end shops and restaurants. Take a look at what is happening in Bristol and Warren. We are literally next door to Providence and enjoy a vast density of population. We must take advantage and get our local economy moving. Make the deals that need to be made. You should be handing out tax breaks like clam cakes. Get it done.
- The waterfront is the biggest strength, and location (close to Providence). We have several lovely parks, Larisa, Sabin Point Hunts, and Ten Mile Greenway. Also, the bike path which brings thousands of people through our city.
- Waterfront, waterfront, waterfront!
- The water front is a strength, the open space and public access need to be preserved and strengthened
- The schools are improving, a great sign, but Riverside is tired and sad-looking. too many empty houses, overgrown lots, trash strewn streets. I'm moving because of this and overall decline in the quality of life.
- Strengths: Location, Diversity, History Carousel Fabulous library staff
- Location to Providence and Boston. East Bay Bike Path, New High School
- I don't see a lot of strengths. East Providence seems to be stuck in the 70s with an older, bigoted, population that is not welcoming to diversity. There is also an un-healthy obsession with the cities police force. Recently, the police department had an auction with the prize being an extremely offensive image of the unhealthy cop culture obsession
- Strengths: Townie Pride/ sense of community, Crescent Park Looff Carousel National Historic Site, the kind of community-oriented development seen in Riverside Square with Borealis Coffee and Union Burrito.
- Plant trees next to sidewalks like the east side of providence
- Location/ proximity to downtown Providence and underdeveloped waterfront.

- Proximity to waterfront and city of providence. New high school - city can be more appealing for families to move to increasing tax base. Keeping Metacomet green. Riverside renaissance -keep it going. Our wonderful public library system - the staff and services are excellent and valuable.
- the people
- waterfront development within environmental protection, allowing for public use and access
- Commercial: We are at a unique crossroads, literally. There is so much focus on Riverside and rumford and I feel like Rt 6, Wampanoag, and Warren Ave could be a huge commercial draw (Seekonk is stealing all of that business) Industrial: We have a great history and some amazing companies in East Providence. With Brown, JWU, etc being so close I don't understand why we are not focused on startups in a focused technology (Aspen Aero [materials], Zoll / Nordson / MM [advanced manufacturing] ) Residential: Connect our neighborhoods with walkable trails! There is so much opportunity especially with East Bay Bike Path as our backbone. Barrington has already paved the way, we just have to follow their example. (Being first is great, but we can learn from their mistakes and get it done for less if we learn correctly)
- Waterfront area, bike path
- Proximity to Providence and East Bay; TV station, world-class golf courses (less Metacomet, sadly), private schools, brand-new high school, Bike Path recreation, waterfront, affordable communities to live in, historic structures, good restaurants and shopping - we've got it all.
- Strengths: low crime Opportunities: improve side walks
- The City's strengths are its neighborhoods, the bike path, access to providence, its public library system, and public parks. It's opportunities are in access and activate the waterfront.
- Proximity to Providence, I-95/195, bike path, nice parks, decent bus service,
- The various neighborhoods
- Strengths: Location, the waterfront (more on this below), affordability as compared to Providence. It also has some historic mini-centers that are somewhat derelict but could be brought back to life by supporting local, independent businesses. Think 15-minute cities movement.
- We have the shoreline along long the bay, the east bay bike bay bike path, the historic carousel and and a rich history. We have many opportunities to revitalize areas where store fronts have been closed for years instead of trying to developing pristine properties that do not fit their surroundings
- East Providence has the most amazing educators and soon getting a state of the art high school. We must stay on top of the maintenance of the schools so they don't fall by the waste side.
- The strength is the community. The individual neighborhoods are wonderful. The waterfront is spectacular. We have let our beaches become dirty and unused.
- Waterfront where the Henderson bridge is a huge opportunity. It is equidistant to Wayland sq. Should be developed and that bridge in fox point should be used as a pedestrian bridge to that greenspace in Providence. Amazing opportunity here.
- Small town feel in a city with open space availability
- bike path, parks, the arts, schools, the water, restaurants and delis, parades and community functions, the carousel
- Stronger police presence at night in the playgrounds
- low crime good schools parks and rec
- Our young citizens. We need to invest in them as they are the future. A new high school is a start. Where is the new Rec Center?
- East Providence attracts many residents of different ethnicities, that give rise to variety amongst neighborhoods and exposes children to many different goals and values. I particularly like the areas along the Providence Rives and other water inlets.
- The waterfront as a place to enjoy for residents.
- Close to larger metropolitan areas
- Small town feel and easy access to city buildings and services
- The municipality has more open waterfront than any of the other densely built up cities in the state. These lands and the opportunity to reuse the Metacom golf course can help improve the quality of life for our residents and mitigate the threats we face due to climate change.



- proximity to Rt. 95, Rt. 195, Eastside of Prov., Downtown Prov., higher ed. institutions, medical facilities, Mass. beautiful public waterfronts
- The waterfront is an incredible asset and every effort should be made to retain as much of its natural beauty as possible.
- Proximity to Providence and miles of waterfront.
- Waterfront - New High School, proximity to Providence
- Keep our city a family friendly community.
- Small businesses parks our bike path outdoor activities
- Tightly woven fabric of the community holds the community together through the rough patches. Waterfront redevelopment is a blank canvas for the city to re-image itself as the gateway to our neighborhood town centers.
- Waterfront access and potential/emerging port. Walkable neighborhood centers with enough critical amenities. Affordable housing near Prov relative to Cranston and the capital city.
- N/A
- the new high school, close to the water, close to the highway
- Connecting with state government agencies to place EP in the upper tier in the state for opportunities & overall quality of life.
- Good community groups, friendly people.
- waterfront, parks, great demographic diversity, rich history, the Carousel, bike path, strong sense of community
- Environmental management
- We are located on the water with underutilized waterfront, we have a great library system. East Providence has a vibrant Portuguese and Cape Verdean population.
- I think there is strength in the youth and the city should build on that.
- This is a great residential community with close proximity to Seekonk and Providence. Our greatest strength is our people.
- The city's strengths consist of the variety of outdoor parks and public places available to the public as well as the building of a new high school to support this city's youth.
- New High School Several parks and playgrounds Senior Center Bike Path
- Fix up existing buildings, streets! I
- Location, quality of life.
- We need to keep and preserve open space / green space and persevere our wild life. We have plenty of strip mall stores that are empty in our city and do not need more.
- Peace, green scenic areas of memorial parkway and bike paths. Would love to see more space designated for community outdoor space like other cities and towns have.
- Active citizens!
- We have about 14 miles of shoreline and most of it is not used to it's potential
- Excellent police and fire departments. Pretty good high school. Great youth sports programming. Good library.
- Strong community ties everyone has been here a long time and continues to stay
- East Providence is beautifully located. We have the opportunity to be forward thinking in regard to environmental issues. It is our responsibility! We have a beautiful new high school that offers several vocational programs. We have the chance to expand on those options for students. From Riverside to Rumford, the city offers diversity in community settings. Each part of East Providence has its own strengths and opportunities. We have a chance to bring more small businesses to the City Hall area as well as Bullocks Point. The city retains its small town warmth and charm in many ways.
- New High School Waterfront New, available land along the Henderson Bridge area New, available Mobil land along Wamp. Trail
- Small town feel
- The water is definitely one of our major attractions but I do not want condos, , homes, stores etc., to there it should remain open to the public
- We love our City. Small business does well here.
- Townie friendship

- We live in a wonderful part of the State. For EP, the Loof Carousel and Larissa park are assets and so worth saving. As well as all of our green spaces, including Metacom.
- We have an opportunity to prevent construction on the veterans memorial parkway and surrounding neighborhood.
- Nice bike path along the water, near a good city like Providence. Could build up to connect the rest of East Providence to already existing bike path by sidewalks and pedestrians area to reduce pollution and make people more active. Build a Nicer friendlier neighborhood that way, like modern urbanism does.
- The city's biggest strength is our sense of townie pride that while we are a city - we still maintain a town like feeling and atmosphere; we gave a wonderful public library system; and while my children attend private school, the schools in EP seem to be good.
- Keeping Metacom Green .
- I like the free concerts, parks, revitalization of EXISTING places, such as Riverside Square. Roads are an absolute disaster. Nationa Grod should be held accountable for co diction after digging. Stop building more retail.
- The waterfront The neighborhoods with family style housing / town like not city scape
- One of our main strengths is our deep sense of community, and I believe this needs to be maintained at all costs to keep the City moving forward in the most positive way.
- Our residents and our unique "small town" feel.
- The small town feeling is a big strength, and keeping that feeling.
- Small town feel. The River and recreation areas.
- Not enough roads in and out. No more development on the Parkway. No parking. The roads are terrible.
- 1. East Providence has unmatched waterfront 2. East Providence has unique character and history
- welcoming environment that appeals to potential new residents and to those who have been here for years, if not generations. Overwhelmingly, surveys show that people are drawn to cities and towns that offer amenities for recreation, less so a new Starbucks or Target.
- The city has lots of history and culture. We should build on that. The oceanside cleanup should be a priority.
- Strengths are we are a coastal close knit town. Businesses are starting to come back. We have a sense of Townie pride. Opportunities are to build on the foundation of this towns historical roots. Develop new programs through the new high school that will shape our childrens educational future. Continue to develop the coastal parks for recreational and town use.
- Having plenty of choices for shopping
- Continue to help the community and improving open space for our children's future.
- Locals know their city, we need to Replant trees, We have lively waterfront homes, A new high school We have an opportunity to provide access, accessible everything. We will all get old so lets Provide access We must have good political leaders in office
- Green space
- The community is the biggest strength of our city.
- The city has a lot of passionate citizens that take pride in this city. The city should build up these relationships and make connections and encourage more community involvement and input.
- -community events -schools -small businesses
- The residents and our location
- Highway proximity, access to the water and waterfront, Townie pride,
- Close proximity to Capital and urban areas and connectivity
- Location to Providence and East Bay with a suburban feel. Blooming parks and rec spaces and activities
- The small close community
- We are proud of our heritage and the diversity of our residents. We have a great Police and Fore department and we need to keep it that way. The parks and rec / utilities department do a great job as well.
- Quality of life for EP residents
- health and food security, youth education, broadband/internet access, affordable housing
- Diversity
- Good management. Need to ensure financial growth for the future.



- Location to Providence and water views.
- It's a residential community and not a commercial center. make it a better place to live, and people will come. Improve the schools and people will come, like Barrington and East Greenwich.
- The libraries and schools are EP's biggest strengths.
- Waterfront, Carousel, Bike path, New High school, Pierce Field,
- Waterfront
- Conveniently located. The city should improve water access but no public beach for residents
- Relatively affordable housing with good access to amenities including greenspace, shopping, and easy commute to employment in Providence.
- Need to built more and better Senior Support Systems
- Proximity to Providence and the water—it's in a great location with many opportunities for growth, especially in terms of restaurants and small businesses.
- Sense of neighborhood
- The mayor truly cares about our town. Listening to our residents. Caring about our environment.
- From growing up and graduating from here in the early 2000's, I can say that when I moved back to Riverside 4 years ago the city has come a long way. I believe that communication and community involvement have played a big factor in this.
- Our proximity to PVD and the water, however, that will be hard to build on as EP does not own any of it
- Our city center needs revamping and make them more desirable for business's to want to come in and use existing vacant buildings . Open space is big strength of this city, and needs to be treated as such.
- Destroying residents rights
- Shoreline
- It's still a nice community to live in. Waterfront property, parks and low crime I would like to see it stay this way.
- Fix secondary roads and sidewalk, trim the trees, cut the grass and put trash barrels on bike path so people can put there dog poop in them instead of putting them on the grass with the bags
- None
- Great teachers 3yo programs to start EARLY EDUCATION,
- The water front, specifically Riverside. Get the beaches safe enough for swimming and it will help the businesses around that area plus create jobs.
- The improving waterfront from crescent park beach, sabin point park, new pier, concert venue on water...I think a local water park like talked about in the past would be something to add another destination.
- - Increase walkability and biking paths and lanes. - Location surrounded by water, great opportunity for recreational spaces to be built(no golf courses, but something for the community as a whole) -Small business could flourish along/near areas mentioned in the two previous bullet points.
- The strengths are certainly it's blue collar citizens. My neighbors in Riverside are early risers, hard working, and take pride in their neighborhood. It's waterfront is also a treasure. Lots of opportunity here.
- Bike path, ease of access to Providence/Fall River/East Bay. People like walkability/easy access to restaurants and events. East Providence will never have the walkability of Providence, but with improved bike access a lot of those issues can be relieved.
- Don't build anything new until the old is taken care of

## What are the City's biggest challenges today and in the future?

- Inversionistas que proponen más construcción y no se tenga la infraestructura (vías, carreteras, supermercados, colegios, centro médicos ) adecuada para soportar el incremento de población. (Como Metacomet)
- Making the city look better.
- Maintaining the small-city mindset and amenities in an age when growth for its own sake has replaced planning on a human scale.

- roads, not caving to twitter, facebook, antifa, or BLM demands
- Open space
- Many roads are unbelievably holey, complete disaster for cars
- There is too much land use planning focus on a handful of abutters rather than real city wide comprehensive planning. East Providence is not only treating itself as 3 separate cities Rumford EP and Riverside, but even give abutters of specific blocks of neighborhoods more say over what is best for the city at large. We need to have more unity as a city and clear processes that will not let a new neighbors say not in my backyard and block what is best for the city as a whole.
- Property taxes that disproportionately affect the aging population with fixed incomes. Infrastructure that needs repair and replacement. High rents that far exceed most renter's ability to pay
- Providing affordable housing, and real estate. Keeping the schools filled with good teachers and resources to support the teachers and parents. Make East Providence a place you want to visit and shop in. Keep the buildings and property on main thoroughfares attractive and well maintained, make business owners conform to unified signage and building exteriors, not just thrown up looking like there was no plan for the neighborhoods. A cohesive appearance is more inviting to shopping and visiting the City.
- Global warming, over development
- Lower income of new residents.
- Road maintenance, the high school, attracting new and varied businesses. Renovating the dilapidated building (already in progress) and making East Providence more attractive to both residents and non-residents.
- Trying to keep more green space.
- 1) keeping our beautiful waterfront beautiful and open to all residents 2) a balanced budget 3) a city recreation center... the people have spoken twice on this issue 4) wider tax base
- Open space, over development, recreational opportunities
- Funding the rebuilding of our infrastructure! Roads, sidewalks, bridges are all in lousy shape. Patch the potholes! Proper management of projects - repair gas and water lines BEFORE you tear up the road and have to repave a second time Work with and better coordination of multi-agency efforts (State roads intersecting with City roads) always leads to inefficiencies and finger pointing about project hiccups. Stormwater drains - get city crews out before a storm to CLEAN them out - so often they remain clogged and littered that they can't do their work with a heavy rain. This is a predictable event!
- Roads need to be improved.
- Securing more open space, like the Metacomet Country Club land and keeping it for our residents (i.e.: for sledding, strolling, picnicking, etc. Also, maintain our water network by upgrading the underground piping and continuing to receive water from the Providence Reservoir in Scituate.
- Economic growth (lots of closed stores and empty buildings that could be renovated for apartments or small storefronts), roads in poor condition pretty much everywhere (and there are whole streets, especially in Rumford, that completely flood during a decent rain storm) Public transportation is a nightmare (some people have to go to Providence to change buses just to get from Riverside to Rumford). Accessibility for disabled peoples is not strong (sidewalks are in poor shape or don't exist in some places and difficult to walk never mind a wheelchair)
- Climate change and its effects on the city's infrastructure (drainage, roadways, greenspaces, utilities.
- Over development along the parkway
- Neighborhood blight and properties being carried on the tax sale list for years
- Faulty development
- Residents can be set in their ways and resistant to change. Need more innovative thinkers in leadership.
- We need to expand our tax base and keep up with our infrastructure. We must bring in new companies. To many people are turning their homes into two and three family and rooming houses. We need to keep single family homes.

- Infrastructure. Green spaces
- Climate change! EP should prioritize environmentally friendly programs - preservation of open space, renewable energy, tree planting, participate in all federal & state programs designed promoting the same.
- The biggest challenges to diversify the city departments as well as communication to the diverse residents. We need to make sure all residents know of all the city's initiatives.
- Taxes and Saving open space
- Roads & Parks
- Traffic
- Overcrowding, traffic, parking
- I think our biggest challenge is over development... I know development brings tax revenue and potential jobs. I really think smart development is the way to go, more of a Barrington or east Greenwich feel. Dollar stores in east providence is not smart development. I think it's a major challenge to see long term and not short term. Another major challenge is the price of water/sewer we pay in this city. We have 2 sewer plants in this city and pay outrageous sewer fees. While other cities/towns rely on us.
- Overdevelopment and the erosion of our civil rights
- Police - too much money spent on militarizing police. Committing to anti racism work in schools.
- Lack of apartments and housing, unusable beaches, lack of unique shopping plazas with destination locations like a trader joes that would bring in shoppers.
- We need to take more pride and push for improvement in our Riverside square revitalization. The Square could be a hub for so many. It needs to be vibrant and inviting. Improving the condition of our elementary schools and unused buildings. The old Oldham school building is a beautiful building I would love to see it purposed for use. The elderly on fixed incomes should possibly get grandfathered in a tax rate once they reach a certain age.
- Affordable housing options and existence of red lining
- Lack of high paying jobs.
- Listening to those who never give up on trying to get through to the Powers that Be to give us what we want. 2. We need a better way of gathering our tax \$ besides screwing around with property values every 3 years and every 10 years. There needs to be a set tax amount as long as the same person owns their property and to reassessed after it is sold. 3. Ridiculous spending has to stop like the mayor redoing his office and stop the raises. So many people are hurting during these turbulent times and yet our taxes continue to climb. When is enough enough? 4. Clean and affordable drinking water
- Sidewalks, roads, infrastructure...schools...city buildings...water bills, handicap accessibility to playgrounds
- We need more green space in the city and less vacant storefronts.
- There is no plan to actively engage businesses and attract them to our business corridors. 2. The city focuses on jobs, when it should be focused on encouraging entrepreneurship. 3. There are no engagement spaces for young professionals. 4. The development of the waterfront seems to ignore the CRMC maps that show rising waterlines that will engulf and destroy these developments (we're not planning ahead and are instead leaving a mess for our grandchildren and children). 5. Our business corridors are not attractive and do not encourage pedestrians or visitors. 6. We do not have a land trust that preserves open spaces. We are not following any of the trends that many cities are making to ensure they have green and open spaces preserved for future generations.
- I think more needs to be done for Seniors, Veterans and children. Seniors need as many resources to help them if there is a need. Connect them to our youth, housing opportunities, recreation. Veterans need to be fully aware of their benefits. I'd like to see a voluntary committee set up to assist them. Children need activities to keep them safe and out of trouble. Connecting them to the community is vital for the growth of everyone.
- Poor or delayed communication.
- Establish a vibrant downtown that attracts pedestrian shopping and dining. Attract racially diverse teachers. More economic opportunities for low-income people.

- Fixing the seawall and terraces at Larissa Park. Redesign of some convoluted traffic patterns. Please, less roadwork impairing me from getting around town!
- The amount of abandoned land especially on the water, lack of interesting shopping opportunities, empty storefronts, entertainment options
- I think there are too many elementary schools, which spreads out resources The old industrial waterfront along the river across from Providence Downtown is disappointing and not a place to visit Not enough community events
- Not a progressive City. “townie” mentality
- Building. Money. Stop developing, build up the run down first. Stop taking land away for city buildings and complexes. Pay less attention to speeding on PAWTUCKET Ave in front of kent heights and more about the very unsafe situation on their side roads where children actually are crossing. We do not need to do 20 from 9-2. Only when the kids actually cross, which is a small amount without benny's there. Taxes are ridiculous. Citations for trash is out of control. The options especially during winter for removal of items are expensive and burdensome. The removal of snow on main roads in front of city and state property is insufficient. Especially PAWTUCKET Ave and Warren but
- Lack of diverse representation. Every photo the city and mayor presents overwhelming represents one segment of the community (Portuguese) only. This can be seen in every photo opp.
- Racism from Portuguese & White towards others
- Division into 3 separate cities
- You/ we have a serious traffic and safety issue that affects our pedestrians. Seniors and children especially can't walk anywhere without feeling endangered by people driving too fast and running red lights on a regular basis.
- Increasing tax rates that makes it unaffordable for elderly with fixed incomes to stay in their homes. Multiple empty store/office buildings, the number of college educated young ppl leaving - poor job opportunities. Poor road conditions, micro-management by City Hall of its citizens. Littering, delapidated housing and businesses, non-resolvable and continual high costs of water/sewer rates. Treeless lined roads. Horrific broken sidewalks or lack of sidewalks or crumbling sidewalks.
- We need to save our open space (there isn't much) for parks, wildlife. We take abandoned/rundown property, demolish and build affordable single family homes. Another challenge is the Special Education classes for young children. There is so much need yet many children are not allowed into special ed because there isn't enough room/money. I've witnessed this for myself. It's awful.
- Growing urbanization is problem. Also we need to approach growth in a new way. A lot of plans to build new business, but brick and mortar stores are closing around the country. We need to find better ways to generate capital without burdening the taxpayer.
- None
- Preserving green space, but not at the expense of progress. Develop the waterfront, and Metacomet.
- Poor side walks and streets. Old middle and grammar schools.
- The challenges I see this city facing are not taking advantage of money when we can. Let's add cameras to school zones. It's a win win situation... city gets profit and people learn not to speed near children who don't have sidewalks to walk on! And also with recycling.. we say we are going to start fineing residents for not recycling properly. Who's in charge of this?! I drive one block down the street and see 3 out of 5 houses with trash bags sticking out from their recycling bins. And that's if the resident decides to even throw anything in either bin at all.. I see many people leaving large bulky items on the side of the road. Now I'm all for leaving it out for a day or two in nice weather to see if anyone would like it, but pure trash, broken furniture, mattresses outside for weeks! Fine these people! Don't we pay for city clean up or do we just depend on the good citizens of the city and residents who actually try to keep their houses looking nice to do it?!
- There are parts of the City that are just in significant decay. The industrial sections of town are an eyesore and people worry about environmental contamination. They must be cleaned up and developed for better use in

order for the City to reach the next level. Cleanup of superfund sites is critical to our progress. It also defies logic why the City is allowing Airbnb rentals in residential neighborhoods, including those that are marijuana friendly. It is extremely upsetting to neighbors and negatively alters the sense of community. We're seeing that in neighborhoods in East Providence. Good families will continue to move out of the City to nearby communities with better reputations, such as Barrington. We already lose families to that community for the school system. It will continue with the allowance of Airbnb rentals that alter the fabric of a neighborhood and attract people who have no other means of earning a living. Neighbors live in close proximity to one another in the City. One bad neighbor ruins an entire neighborhood. Additionally, the City needs to install cameras on traffic lights, especially the intersection of Broadway, Roger Williams Avenue, and Centre Street. Every day cars run red lights at that intersection. There have been very serious accidents there and it will continue. I've seen 18-wheelers running traffic lights there. Please make it safe!!!

- Development. We came from a city environment. We rented in riverside for a couple of years and loved it. We bought our home a couple of years ago because it was the perfect balance of convenience like the Warren Ave area and the like but our neighborhood is quiet and the peaceful riverside area. Unfortunately the whole parkway was torn up for undesirable commercial buildings and condos none of us locals can afford. Now more development on the golf course. I have seen the program to plant trees on sidewalks. That seems counter productive. We had a ton of trees right where they should be. The whole reason we settled here is being turned upside down. We understand change but please consider developing the vacant lots and buildings before allowing acres of nature to be destroyed.
- Biggest challenges are the limited amounts of land available and single family homes for families looking to buy houses and stay within the community.
- It is too expensive to live here as a single mom who sold her home almost two years ago. I still can't afford to buy a home. I know the home market is crazy. But I have owned my own home for more than 25 years. So prices for homes need to be more affordable and lower taxes
- Taxes
- Real estate space for more house construction, lack of good play grounds for recreation, good tennis courts, roads are not maintained to the expectation of tax payers
- Maintaining public buildings. Encouraging new businesses to the city to offset the resident tax burden.
- It seems like the economy needs work, and if that were to happen, it would lift up the city in other areas.
- Schools-Making sure that kids aren't brainwashed in this cancel culture world system -
- I believe managing commercial growth opportunities "responsibly," and in line with growing both the tax base and allowing for new jobs, and services, etc.
- Not enough after-school activities for children - lack of bussing. Could use a venue for school aged parties or after school rec center accessible for all Summer programs for school aged children. Internships for high school students.
- I think one of our biggest obstacle is the fact that East Providence isn't known as being very friendly to small businesses. Take the downtown area of Taunton Ave for example. There are way too many empty storefronts. If this city were more friendly toward small businesses, that street could look like our East Bay counterparts. Wouldn't you love a booming downtown like Barrington, Bristol, or Warren? Coffee shops, restaurants, art shops, etc would be a lot better to see than liquor stores. Warren Ave, Watchemoket Square and Riverside have similar opportunity in my opinion. I also think that our public schools could use some work. The new high school is an amazing positive step in getting our public schools where they need to be, but low test scores and overall poor school ratings not only negatively impact our children, but influence things like property values as well.
- Keeping taxes low!
- Reducing debt and staying on budget. There should be no reason why taxes are where they are today.
- Properly funding the school department. Other districts are paying staff better and we lose good people. Trash/litter is everywhere. Attracting development and business to our city. Taking care of the environment

and our parks and open spaces. EP has a lot of subsidized housing and group home housing. These are not bad things, but do put a strain on the city and the schools.

- The streets and sidewalks are mostly in disrepair.
- Education.
- High taxes and water bill
- We can be more neighborly. I understand for the last year it has been difficult due to the pandemic, but more activities to meet our neighbors and get to know each other. I feel that will be a great way for East Providence to lead in the equity of the city given the current social climate we're in.
- Corrupt city politicians not listening to the needs and wants of our residents. Our streets are a mess. We need more sidewalks.
- Not having enough green space available. Deplorable roads, no bike lanes, deplorable or lack of sidewalks especially for students to walk to the NEW high school. (Pawtucket Ave) lack of safety to walk to schools now on limited sidewalks, maintaining these sidewalks, lack of renewable energy being used by businesses. Taxes. Water sewage rates are ridiculous - how can you pay twice as much for twice as less water used.
- Keeping up with infrastructure and ensuring that it becomes an attractive place for families to move into.
- Covid 19 has blocked community events that I have enjoyed in the past. Bringing back heritage days, the police night and other activities once safe. Park behind Pierce Field needs to be maintained! It was beautiful a few years back now overrun with weeds and brush. Splash pad not put in Pierce Field in 2020 with approved grant!!!!
- Continuing use of green spaces for more apartments and stores instead of using old dilapidated buildings & properties. High taxes for home owners, poor performing schools, poor neighborhood appearance and proximity to Providence.
- Please keep the homestead act and continue to work on lowering our taxes and water/sewer costs.
- Overcrowding and traffic. Too many new apartment complexes. This is going to impact the schools, traffic, etc. It's too much.
- Cynical and distrustful population (largely based on years of petty local politics, lack of gov't transparency, poor services, and poor follow-through on initiatives). Poor infrastructure and poorly maintained infrastructure. Lack of vision and follow-through from the City and its leaders.
- Budget. Roadways.
- The school system is not seen as a strength, and I believe poses a challenge as we look to improve our standing in the state.
- Reaching out to our citizens to offer them opportunities to volunteer. We have many people with skills that could be helpful for improving our city.
- The fact that Seekonk has massive businesses that EP residents go to because they are not available in EP such as Home Depot, Target, Best Buy etc.
- I would like to see FAR MORE environmental improvements. I'd like to encourage bee keeping, tree planting, not manicuring lawns until consistently upwards of 50 degrees, the ability to turn front lawns into food gardens, the ability to own chickens, the protection of any and ALL green space...including Metacomet. We need environmentally friendly policies and ordinances. We need green space for wildlife, which is vital to a healthy ecosystem.
- Infrastructure, lack of personnel.
- The city's biggest challenge is replacing ALL of the Mayor's cronies and himself. Get someone in there who isn't a Facebook Mayor. Get his friends out of city hall with their made up positions that cost us taxpayers money. ("NAPPY" can go get an actual job, not one that was promised to him for whatever he has over the mayor)
- Development of waterfront. Embracing, championing and protecting open space vs. development. Building a Community Recreation Center. Renewal of blighted/neglected commercial spaces throughout the city.
- One of the biggest challenges is the poor condition of much of the city's infrastructure especially roads and sidewalks.



- I think East Providence needs more beautiful public spaces, more frequent public transportation. It needs to appeal to young families. It is much less expensive which is a plus, but it doesn't have walkable access to restaurants and venues that younger people enjoy.
- Lack of public transit that serves more locations in the city of EP exclusively, which could reduce the need for intra-city car trips. The city needs to improve its pedestrian access. Many streets and intersections are not pedestrian-friendly.
- Fixing the roads, getting more businesses to open or stay!
- Some of EP feels rundown and tired, including much of the waterfront. Schools inferior to neighboring Barrington.
- Managing and planning at a micro level instead of a macro level. We are never proactive and lack foresight. Managers all too often listen to vocal minorities and disregard great ideas with foresight because of it.
- Corruption
- Maintains safe neighborhood, continue enforcing sense of community
- Overall infrastructure. The roads are awful, Pawtucket Ave and Broadway come to mind but there are far too many roads to list here
- Police reputation about the treatment of people of color, real or perceived, remains a significant challenge as well as equity in educating our youth.
- Maintain clean water system Maintain low tax base
- Roads are terrible
- road system is convoluted- not easy to park and support businesses in some areas, too congested in other areas, not age friendly sidewalks, not enough celebrated greenspace.
- Always having enough funds to upkeep and upgrade services to the community.
- Enhancing and preserving the environment and green spaces.
- Affordable housing is non-existent.
- Pedestrian safety
- The electrical infrastructure. A lack of affordable housing.
- Reviving the city in general. Too many closed storefronts, hardly any employment opportunities beyond dead end customer service jobs, lousy roads.
- Needs more restaurants.
- Making safe transportation accessible for all.
- Taxes too high, no affordable housing
- Loss of historic places and open land
- Money for quality education
- A big challenge for the city is the development of a downtown, primarily a rethinking and redesign of Taunton Avenue/City Hall area. Cafe Zara's is a great start! This area is the first thing that people see as they leave the highway and it is not pretty. How to balance growth of the waterfront while being environmentally aware and cautious is a concern. Finally, losing the green space of the former Metacomet Golf Club is a tragedy for East Providence. Science has documented how even just seeing and living with green, open, and beautiful space benefits our health.
- Sewage system that overflows into river. Lack of true open space and lack of parks on the waterfront. Oil tanks blight appearance, taking up so much of the land including waterfront. Ugly and polluting industries allowed in. Interstate divides downtown. Bay cleanup needed. Loud music from venues along waterfront in evening disrupts sleep.
- Challenges: Unfortunately, the reputation and listing as an urban ring community. Low rents draw less desirable and needy residents from stressed areas such as Providence. Developing stronger business presences is vital to future developments.

- Protecting open spaces, balancing new construction /housing while providing a quality of life with a rich environment that encourages people to get outside
- Not taking advantage of the waterfront and keeping our city clean.
- Too many vacant, abandoned buildings
- Infrastructure work: Roadways in dire need of repairs throughout EP (Willett Ave); Attracting Green businesses & local businesses to develop - make use of all the closed business areas in EP - redevelopment is needed
- We have a definite lack of green space and are turning more into Providence versus a suburb. Too much emphasis on converting what we have left into commercial development. Also, so many vacant store fronts. Maybe raze them and turn into parks.
- Limited recycling, empty buildings that are not being renovated and instead large developments are being approved --- not okay.
- Police department has a terrible reputation and appears to be deserved. Schools are weak particularly middle school and there is no central gathering place to create a sense of community. This may be related to the 3 separate groups that comprise the city.
- Affordable housing, qualified teachers and social workers to build up our children also we need to put more effort in making our city visually appealing
- The biggest challenges are always money but I'm so pleased with all the city services offered. I have never seen roads as clean as ours after snow and I'm loving it!!!
- Old grudges & lack of productive discussion among opposing viewpoints. Inefficient, expensive, and over the top residential permitting. Shuttered commercial spaces. Lack of trees on many streets. Lack of inclusion of disability awareness/accessibility in diversity programs/outreach/committees.
- Maintaining funds to cover building maintenance (I.e. new high school) and roads. Reputation for schools. Reputation for quality. Make improvements while not losing character I.e. don't turn it into Barrington.
- Keeping property taxes down.
- Sewer/ water bill purity and outflow, schools, Future traffic congestion because of waterfront development. Lack of green space.
- Sadly I just see a lot of development and green spaces being taken away. I now have a 5 month old daughter and worry there won't be many places for her to run and explore as she grows.
- Education & deteriorating school buildings; roads & bridges
- Small mindedness. Some residents' unwillingness to change and adapt.
- Roads, high taxes.
- Growth
- Please allow for online payments for utilities such as water. The city doesn't even provide a return envelope!
- Over- and poorly-conceived development and urbanization, only fair educational/library system, aging infrastructure, limited business sector and employment opportunities, impact of climate change.
- Politics and taxes
- Overgrowth. Water/Sewer bill increases and tax increases.
- Taxes seem unduly high as compared to other towns, cities
- Electing people that work for the citizens of East Providence and are not here just to enrich themselves and their developer friends.
- Climate change will make EP life more expensive all around, from school building costs to health impacts. So we need to limit new building development and impervious surfaces, and increase natural habitat corridors -- which will clean the air, lower temperatures, increase property values and make EP a better place to live.
- Maintaining green space and moderately priced housing.
- The strength of the public school system, controlling development of green community spaces.
- Cleaning up and developing some older parts of the city. Continuing to take care of green spaces



- The large number of empty buildings in our city. Run down properties. Our city water system needs improvement and not at such a high expense to the residents. We need to take care of our senior population.
- - Prepare waterfront for climate change - Encourage green energy and tree planting for individuals - Taxes on waterfront houses are getting too high for long time residents who hoped to retire in their homes. - Make sure gentrification doesn't drive out long time residents or the poor - Improve public schools - Outreach and education of the population to get them on the same page for community improvements
- Support & maintain efforts to refurbish and restore the historic sections of town. for example, I would love to see "the square" brought to it's former glory. It would encourage new entrepreneurial growth. The carousel and surrounding area is another important treasure that should be maintained, revitalized, and perhaps more strongly advertised to encourage tourists to come here to enjoy all it has to offer.
- Uniting the city (much like the country, ha!) and creating a cohesive environment. The City has grown so much over the last 40 years, but no one stopped to make any strategic decisions in the investments that were made. It looks like nothing was purposeful, and things were approved haphazardly, nothing makes sense. There are so many empty buildings up and down all of the major roadways in the City. The sidewalks are a mess and inaccessible, and there is no cohesive feeling in the city. We need a facelift - and we needed it 5 years ago. Residents are angry over the mismanagement of Metacomet (and Kettle Point/University Ortho). Watching it play out between residents, the mayor, and the Conley election was tough, and still is. There are already so many vacant buildings and lots, and the traffic is horrendous there... Most importantly, people need to see transparency in Government and feel like their opinions are important and they are the process. City Hall should be there for us as residents, and should not help create the divide. Ultimately, there are systemic issues that need to be fixed - communications (while I have enjoyed social media, I know so many who do not have access to it!) need to be accessible.
- Bike/pedestrian and ADA compliant accessibility. A designated, cultural center (that is bike/pedestrian-friendly). We need roads and streets that safely allow for alternative modes of transportation from across every sector of the city.
- Taxes Aging population Aging infrastructure
- decaying infrastructure
- TAXES !! TAXES !! TAXES!! Underfunded Pensions !! Too many Healthcare Obligations for retired Employees on the School Side is killing this city . What % of the school Budget is spent on Blue Cross ?! EP needs to figure out how to increase the Tax Base and Attract CLEAN INDUSTRY to this City.. Job Opportunities are Few in this City for local residents
- Education, infrastructure, renewable resources, climate change
- 1) biggest challenge is the UNIONS (Fire/Police/City/School), employees in these areas abuse the system therefore, costing the taxpayers millions of dollars, their benefits are out of control, salaries way too high, too many sick/vacation days etc., 2) maintaining streets/roads (potholes everywhere), awful snow plowing in winter, businesses/residents are required to clean their sidewalks when it snows that's not done and no fine is incurred. I have walked/waited on the street to catch the bus.
- Finances are always a challenge-despite all the growth and building, it seems like finances are still a challenge
- Attitudes of the citizenry - resistance to change, provincial thinking Finding the balance between development and tradition, between keeping open space and access to the water with promotion of new industry and housing.
- Keeping the Bay clean, keeping noise pollution from loud concerts and scrap yard away, ugly oil tanks across the River and on EP waterfront and near Gate of Heaven cemetery , keeping pollution from Providence away, negative effects of allowing unhealthy polluting businesses in, lack of tree ordinance
- There is not a lot of trust in government. I think it is hard to please everyone all of the time, but maintaining integrity and keeping promises (to citizens).
- develop a stronger/larger tax community 2. bringing back small businesses

- Challenges are the barely adequate school system. No enough emphasis on trades. Not enough emphasis on reading or critical thinking. Infrastructure is very tired and old. People should be able to have input into grounds, i.e. school grounds and care without repercussions from unions
- no comment
- Use all assets to the utmost.
- City needs to do its best to ensure that properties are maintained and not just left. (One example might be the area of Willett Avenue between Rhodes Ave and Somerset. I don't even think anyone is living in one of those residences. What a shame for the area.)
- develop the waterfront
- Loss of community and working together for a shared goal.
- Saving our open space!
- ?
- Condition of roads Too much development- not enough infrastructure The appearance that the Mayor is giving jobs to friends and not qualified individuals in certain positions Crime
- Blight in some areas and property taxes.
- Preserving open space. Stop all the development and building. Save open space and wildlife. It is a quality of life issue.
- Closed businesses, vacant buildings and lots. Taxes too high
- keeping taxes low enough that we chase away young families and elderly home owners, while providing high caliber educational system with school that are well maintained and equipped.
- Biggest challenge is balancing budgets and maintaining or growing the tax base.
- The City needs to keep focused on resolving needs of low income people, the elderly and other disadvantaged citizens. Also, the best decisions possible must be continually sort for funding community needs while attempting to keep costs at a moderate level.
- We need to keep housing affordable so middle class families will stay and locate here.
- Keeping the industrial base while attracting new businesses. Really getting an A- one school system in place. Growing the open space component
- The city seems rundown and depressed in certain areas. Businesses that have been closed, etc. Need more open public land space, parks, waterfront areas, etc.
- Road quality and accessibility. Extend Henderson bridge project to Pawtucket Ave to finish the project and give better East west access. Fix all of the roads that are in poor quality. Finish the waterfront project. Take care of the new high school so it will last. Develop a comprehensive plan for unused schools buildings.
- Too much building we seem to build on any tiny piece of land. Many times without parking spaces etc.
- Controlling taxes !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Supporting new potential and existing businesses. Cleaning up absentee storefronts
- Taxes and road maintenance
- run down infrastructure, no real town-center gathering spots,
- We must make sure development is thoughtful and contributes to the beauty, environment and accessibility for all citizens. We must preserve our green spaces and reuse existing development rather than give in to sprawl.
- Over crowding, roads that were not built to handle the increased amount of traffic in East Providence.
- Our biggest problem is our roadways, not only in the maintenance, but the amount of traffic with more development the bigger the issue. Some of streets are not made for parking and two way traffic. During the sixties and seventies there was maybe one car per household now some homes have 3 to 4 in driveway and on the street'
- Lack of trust in leadership by many who recall problems of the past.
- Maintaining open green space. Lack of an equivalent park for our citizens to enjoy (equivalent to what many neighboring cities enjoy, like Pawtucket's Slater, Providence's Roger Williams, or Bristol's Colt State). Vacant

buildings and businesses, often in disrepair. Maintaining infrastructure and roads. Too much appeal/catering to older population and too little appeal/catering to younger population. This ultimately leads to a lot of older/elderly citizens living here, and much less young adults or people starting families; and the net effect is the EP population has been dropping steadily for decades. We need less retirement/nursing homes, senior centers, apartments, and affordable housing and more residential multi-family homes, condos, and green space/parks to help rebalance this elderly vs. youth scale. Any new businesses should also be well-thought out with respect to this; less industrial/commercial-based business, and more community/consumer-based (bakeries, coffee shops, restaurants). And first aiming to occupy existing buildings.

- Challenges - taxes
- Too much development and cutting down trees
- Control taxes and expenses
- The biggest challenges are to much building going on . Use the stores, buildings,offices that are already here .
- Politics, lack of vision
- Keeping our open green spaces. Metacomet being a huge challenge that should be pursued
- Community policing. Not as a negative cop comment. The community is seeing an uprising of “masked” criminals. Let’s work on legislation to get neighborhood cameras admissible!
- Continued development is damaging our open spaces and wildlife. The city needs to focus on reducing new construction and using existing developed space.
- Keeping green places protected, scaling back major development into smaller, more artistic types of places. Protecting wildlife, and as an avid walker and biker, having more trash receptacles.
- 1. Our roads 2. Our politicians who don't work for their constituents. They work for their own agendas. Not all of them Our city webpage is very difficult to navigate. Meetings are never posted like they were before.
- Keeping everyone here. Rising taxes are causing folks to leave and go to neighbors Seekonk. In EP any new developments are over builds with little to no land yet the city approves them to increase tax revenue. Seems like Mateus has more power in this city then the actual people put in place.
- Administration not listening to the voices of the residents of the city; too much big development going on. The feeling that the current administration trying to change the foot print of our wonderful city into something that will no longer be recognizable.
- Controlling and keeping the budget and our spending in check. Employee costs are exorbitant between salaries, steps, bonuses and healthcare . We should be working towards being more like the private sector with reasonable benefits. This is a huge challenge when dealing with unions, who believe they are entitled to more than the private sector employees and are a drain on all levels of government. Making sure that all citizens are respected and treated equally. A plan for revitalizing abandon buildings and other structures to support affordable housing.
- Over development Destruction of green space Not business friendly Dictatorship from mayors office
- Affordable housing. Run down empty buildings. We need some walkable arts and shops.
- The biggest challenges are preventing gentrification and the build up of large housing complexes. It is key to maintaining our community that the people that live here have a long term home stake in the future of EP.
- overcoming the politics at city hall
- Slow movement on economic development; abandoned schools/vacant lots
- Lack of growth and opportunities for development and local businesses
- As we are excited about the completion of the new high school, we must soberly realize that it comes with a significant debt burden. As we responsibly pay off this debt annually, in addition to our normal budget demands, se should avoid any new debt that is unnecessary to take on.
- Rebuilding Taunton avenue with small business.Not just tattoo parlors and takeout.Real shops.Hardware stores.
- Ensuring taxpayers are consistently getting value for the taxes they pay and public servants ALWAYS make taxpayer issues/concerns their number one priority.

- Bringing in controlled development and clean industry and manufacturing.
- Lack of enforcement of people speeding in neighborhoods. Lack of zoning that allow property/home owners to pile up trash (appliances/furniture/unused tools) in their yards or on the street for months and months. Lack of zoning that allow unregistered cars to be kept on property. Lack of ticketing in neighborhoods for unlawful parking.
- The current education system is not preparing students for real life. Adding and Increasing hands on education, working with local business for internship, bring in financial representatives to educate on checking, savings, IRA's, insurance, home ownership, renting etc. the number of empty building throughout the city. We need to attract small business into our city and big box stores like Christmas Tree Shop.
- Infrastructure maintenance; thoughtful development
- Buy in by the community to continue to improve our infrastructure which will likely result in some tax increases.
- Must keep open spaces KMG We as a city are over developed
- Taxes, water bills and horrible street conditions
- Redevelopment and/or repurposing of existing developed empty commercial and industrial spaces to maximize our tax base, while protecting and preserving large undeveloped “green” spaces.
- Money
- Budget
- Infrastructure
- We desperately need more green spaces and access to clean water.
- TAXES TAXES TAXES... DID I MENTION TAXES
- vaccine
- In the near future helping small businesses recover from COVID restrictions. Long range, economic development to help ease the tax burden on homeowners.
- Variety of demographics make a cohesive feel very difficult. Riverside and Rumford are miles away in many respects.
- \*Empty blighted storefronts - sends a horrible message \*Lack of affordable housing (whatever happened to the money that the developer of the eyesore of University Orthopedics paid for affordable housing?)
- Environmental challenges - Rising sea levels, extreme climate events, trash/recycling, heat islands effects, brownfields, other pollution, lack of outdoor space such as parks Social challenges - establishing a tax base that is fair, aging population, high paying jobs, unemployment,
- Too much affordable housing, apartments, tenements that off balance the economy to attract quality businesses. Schools that are not known for high quality so higher educated folks that live here put their kids in private schools. No enforcement of cleanliness of businesses (the gas station? old car and truck dump? across from Borealis), allowing businesses to have full window advertisements of cigarettes where children wait for school buses (convenient store across from Borealis)... The odor from the the water treatment facility. Improving the quality of the Narragansett Bay so the local beaches can reopen to swimming - cleaning up the beaches and coves - addressing the erosion problem that threatens the coastline. Addressing the empty businesses throughout Riverside - tear down vs find tenants. If a new commercial business center opens elsewhere nearby (golf course) then this problem will get much worse making Riverside look like an economically devastated community - more than it already does.
- Climate change - rising sea levels. Aging population. Trash disposal when landfill closes. Developing a strong tax base that does not rely on property taxes from residents.
- The number of people who are anti growth.
- Many roads and sidewalks need to be replaced. To many vacant business. Police officers need to enforce the noise ordinances even if they know the person being reported. I haven't felt safe at sabin point at night for many years. Something needs to be done about the undesirables down there. We need a stop sign at the end of Forbes Street or open up the turn around again so we can stop driving the two extra miles to go to Seekonk. This

is an issue for many. Increased parking in Riverside Square. Enforcement of the rules where the bike path meets roads. Many on bikers just fly into the street without looking even though they have a stop sign. The right of way need to be clearly marked.

- Financial health. Below standard management. Loss of recreational/park area.
- Recruiting small businesses that can succeed at this time. Would be great to have a Dave's Market, or Market Basket or Traders Joe in Riverside.
- Silencing the nay sayers.
- The affects of climate change on our coast and expanding racial and economic justice in the city.
- The lack of a city center. We are a suburb of Providence High property taxes (as high as Barrington, but without the beauty and good schools) Average/mediocre schools Wasteland waterfront areas
- Property taxes are getting too high. High property taxes is passed on from the landlords to the renters.
- Public education must improve in order to draw and retain middle income families.
- Two years ago I would have said City Hall but I must say the move to the Mayoral form of Government has been a blessing. Mayor DaSilva has done a good job and clearly has the best interests of the City at heart. Not perfect but at least I don't have to read about any Councilmen breaking in or threatening City Employees. Keep up the low profile, it's working great.
- No central business district, not enough employment opportunities, no college or junior college facilities, and lack of good retail including supermarkets.
- The roads are horrendous. Besides the Easy Bay Bike Path, biking in the city is suicidal at best. There is no real "downtown" area where people could gather for food, entertainment, ect.
- It's a sprawling city with relatively poor schools and often little pride of ownership in housing and low education of residents. The government is historically poor and not responsive
- Improving the schools. 2. Fixing the sewage treatment plant -- the odor!!!! 3. better code enforcement on abandoned houses, trash strewn lots. 4. Make neighborhoods more walkable. 5. do something with Riverside Center. Look at Warren's downtown -- it's alive with shops, restaurants, small businesses.
- shabby appearance of downtown stronger business base - why are they all in Seekonk and not here? need classy attractions for tourists and residents Really good restaurants
- Over development, school repair and maintenance concerns, lack of affordable single family homes. Road repair costs.
- Getting over it's bigotry and obsession with police culture and it's run down look.
- Facebook- leadership needs to make equitable, sustainable decisions without catering to the loudest voices on social media. These are the minority. Soliciting community feedback is excellent! However, it is necessary to reach out to and hear from those who aren't on social media as well. Climate change is also a major issue. The city could make an important impact by adding more green infrastructure to roads and more pedestrian and bike lanes.
- Plant trees next to sidewalks like the east side of providence, trees will cool down the city and create rainforests with lush greenery. Shaded beautiful city or hot parking lot, the choice is yours.
- Apathy, need transparency in local government. Many years of "good old boy "mentality . Nepitism, not what you know, who you know Political egos get in the way of common good of the whole..... City still uses hard copy for many functions, need to be more with the times with regard to online functionality ...
- Finding money to make our city more beautiful and updated. Get rid of or repurpose vacant eyesores. Making sure children have a high quality education. Provide services for disadvantaged populations. Make adult education and job training easier to do. Bring businesses to the city.
- the politics
- maintaining open space, conservation land, while allowing affordable housing. need for charging stations for electric vehicles.

- Ourselves: There is so much infighting between residents. Riverside v. Rumford, Portuguese v. Everyone else, etc... Leadership and clear direction is something I would follow and I know many neighbors who think the same. The Past: Riverside Square was a great memory for many people. I can appreciate that. But if we did a commercial traffic study we know there is no one passing through Riverside Square except as a destination. We need to develop and put City Money where the data says we can grow the best.
- Cost of water
- Don't let gangs or drugs take over our lifestyle; don't let non-tax-paying entities like St. Brendan's be allowed zoning-wise to put in a day shelter for homeless in a residential neighborhood where it does not belong, attracting the wrong crowd from around the state to loiter and bring down the quality of the neighborhood (a day shelter should be commercially zoned and on a bus line); keep green space green; watch out for waterfront development high-rises; keep taxes reasonable and attract businesses/homeowners to locate here
- Improve directional lights at intersections
- The biggest challenge is the location of the highway and Pawtucket Ave. These highways and arterials disconnect neighborhoods from each other and often require the ownership of a car to get to necessary destinations such as markets, parks, and schools because walking or biking to them would be unsafe. The price of a single family home is a challenge to middle class residents looking to stay in the area. Our school department's literature program could benefit from an improved list of required readings.
- The sidewalks are treacherous and not very pedestrian friendly. No sidewalk on portions of Veterans Memorial Parkway. Bus stops need shelters in order to be practical. Air quality problem caused by the port of Providence. Trash blowing into Squantum Woods Park from the Kettle Point development and nothing gets done.
- They are demolishing the Metacomet Clubhouse (no windows, removed asbestos, gutted inside) without permits. The green space there is very important and should remain. We don't need any more stores
- Organizing neighborhoods into communities or groups so the citizens can come together to make a difference for their neighbors and the wider community. Also communicating to people outside the city the benefits of moving to the city. For instance, I think the new high school is an amazing idea. It brings together people with different skillsets and interests to be able to share different points-of-view.
- Quality of life and the need for a strong tax base. They both have to have some balance.
- Community involvement, it seems to be the same group of people that get involved, we need to find a way to reach out to others and get full community involvement. Communication between the city officials and community including police department lets get the officers out there and involved with the community.
- We are out of green space. We have vacant strip malls every where. We have a school system that is overcrowded.
- Recycling should be weekly. Trash should be every other week. Flip what we do today. Also have HIGH costs involved around our water. Privatizing our water was a mistake! Paying 1.2x on consumption for waste is extremely high.
- Not allowing over building. Squeezing houses and businesses in 50x100 lots. Zoning should be taken back to where it was many years ago so people would have yards
- holding on to open spaces, keeping rental fees under control, low income housing needs to be expanded, making sure property taxes don't get out of control, promoting the arts in times of financial stress, opening up swimming opportunities
- Camera's needed on traffic lights. Especially the corner of waterman and Pawtucket Ave.
- need more young ppl
- Our infrastructure is falling apart.
- the biggest challenge to EP is not being led by corruption.
- Keeping the waterfront accessible to residents to enjoy.
- Traffic and not enough road to accommodate
- There are very few sidewalks and my neighborhood is not very walkable or accessible



- Education, climate change, social justice.
- quality education, job training preserving open spaces and gaining more cleaning up urban spaces attracting employers clean energy more recycling
- To develop carefully and try to preserve natural areas instead of turning the city into one big parking lot.
- Due to global warming, waterfront is also a challenge as well as opportunity. Any city's challenge today is planning development with global warming at the forefront. More open space, public transportation, biking, reuse of older buildings.
- traffic and infrastructure- overdevelopment of the parkway
- Conserving green space, protect our environmental resources & wide life habitats. Keeping our coastlines clean. Find ways to reduces traffic congestion. Majority of our residents commute to work daily via 195 & 95.
- Refurbishing old structures and using unwanted or waste of space and Learning to live/work with Our environment and making use of unwanted material/waste we also need more access roads to reduce traffic
- Tightly woven fabric of the community chokes out opportunities to re-invent itself as a modern community. Weak political leadership. Too many unopposed candidates with no qualifications for managing the complexities of a city of 50,000. We need professional, full-time, elected leadership on the City Council. Leaders with experience and qualifications. We need a mayor who seeks out local stakeholders for guidance. A mayor who is able to comprehend stakeholders operational challenges and partner on solutions. We DO NOT need a social media hero. We need leaders who can not only understand our challenges, but explain the complexities of the required solution to the citizens of our community. City departments are running below optimal staffing levels necessary to meet the needs of the city. We need to fill out city departments with professionals committed to a vision for a city equipped to hand the modernization of our 1950's styled city. East Providence has a modest tax base from which to cure structural deficiencies and modernize. We must do more with with the modest resources we have, but most importantly we cannot squander of waterfront resources that will be required to created financial solutions.
- Maintaining housing affordability. Continued improvement of the school system. Better public transportation and modifications of our arteries. With new development and additional people expected at Metacomet, need to plan for/mitigate Veterans Parkway congestion. We have banned Air BnB (not the right choice in my mind) and don't have any hotels. I'd like to see some focus on tourism, especially as ARPA funding explicitly calls that out.
- We need more affordable housing. Rent prices are outrageous.
- Lack of greenspace, lack of citizen participation in city government, lack of single family houses ,lack of jobs
- Costs of living & taxes.
- Apparently encouraging business and long-range planning
- A contingent of original "Townies" who resist any change, disrespect anyone who didn't grow up here, and just outright hatred of the mayor. Water/sewer rates rising yearly. No way to fix the formula so that the sewage rate doesn't include outdoor water use that is not really going into the wastewater system. Excessive development on the waterfront adjacent to Veterans Memorial Parkway. New development should focus on Waterfront Drive and other underdeveloped areas on the Seekonk River. The parkway is quickly becoming a city street. Our historic parkway should be preserved as a PARKWAY - a WAY along the PARK(s).
- Crime Guns Adequate housing
- There is a lack of walking and biking infrastructure, a lack of employment within the city, lots of abandoned retail space. We also have an over-militarized police force with pensions sinking the city budget.
- I think that growing and connecting the community is one of the city's biggest challenges.
- Our biggest challenge is to bring new business into the city while keeping our small city appeal. If we bring more community-focused attractions, we will be able to support more small businesses.
- The city is challenged by connecting as a community in some crucial areas. An increase of community events could strength community bond, therefore bettering our environment as a whole.
- High quality education Safety No one stops for people in Cross walks- not even the police officers

- Not destroying the whole city by eliminating the little green space we have left!
- Development, maintaining roads, lack of focus on small businesses.
- Our city needs to keep whatever green space is available and preserve wildlife.
- Traffic and abandoned office/shopping plazas
- A Mayor and Council who do as they please. They say they care about the City and people and then act in favor of people who are looking to line their own pockets.
- We need to go back to a city manager form of government. This mayor position is failing us miserably. Many people believe something, no matter how cheesy, is better than nothing. This is not true. We need to keep Metacomet green!! We need to get rid of the Waterfront Commission. Our elected city council members should be sufficient. They answer to the residents, unlike the appointed commission.
- Limiting development and maintaining a good tax base.
- over development and lack of open space low wage jobs
- Infrastructure Understanding the seriousness of global warming and working to protect the environment  
Quality education Supporting small business
- More commercial businesses/ properties to alleviate burden on residential property taxes Secondary water source to protect our community in the event the Prov. pipeline is damaged. Affordable housing Tax rate (increase due to new HS is expected, but as the bonds are paid off, taxes should not stay level).
- Politicians with the wrong priorities
- The conflict between the people in power and the “people” is a huge conflict! Also too many commissions involved!
- Keeping green space, green space. Climate change.
- Minimizing industrialization and prioritizing safe and healthy living
- Our Mayor and town council who seem resigned to selling the city to the highest bidder, regardless of what residents want and how their decisions negatively effect the people they are supposed to serve. Equally challenging are groups on the other side, both are unwilling to bend and residents are caught in the middle of every issue.
- Metacomet property maintenance of city and school buildings
- Getting rid of the mayor form of government.
- Keeping green space away from developers
- Pollution. The lacking walking area/cycling/public transportation that force people to 100% rely on cars. The lack of composting managed by the city is a big priority to reduce pollution and trash. Encouraging more environmentally friendly type of landscaping like Native plants instead of Lawn drench in chemicals everywhere.
- The city’s biggest challenges are to fill the businesses and buildings that are vacant in the city; the city needs to focus on opportunities that will entice families to remain in East Providence and fill the new high school. Speaking of schools, the city will also face the challenge of improving and maintaining the schools that already exist in the city. Ex. Martin Middle School.
- Keep are roads in good condition.
- We do not need more retail. Glad we are building a high school, better maintain existing building.let More single family homes rather than condos.
- Failed leadership.
- Over development causing traffic , infrastructure damage, taxing our water/ sewer plants and obviously destroying our environment with overpopulation, pollution and crime
- Keeping current residents happy to live here rather than wanting to move away. While it's certainly not possible to keep everyone happy, our elected officials are duty bound to listen and act upon their constituents' wishes. Once an elected (or non-elected) official is perceived to do otherwise, the public loses faith and nothing good will follow.



- Trying to resist expansion at the expense of losing our “townie” uniqueness. We should re-develop areas that are already developed and preserve as much open space as possible.
- Biggest challenge is to NOT overdeveloped. EP needs to re develop existing, derelict areas.
- Climate. Over development and pore usage of current resources.
- Roads, traffic, noise, fire pits in residential areas. Being over developed.
- 1. Keeping Open Space as Open Space 2. Providing recreational opportunities for all 3. Preserving quality of life for all residents by limiting unnecessary development
- Not enough open land. We have allowed building on every tiny piece of property and the subdivided so more building could happen. We are so overcrowded now and the city is planning on more and more building.
- Drawing in new residents and forward-thinking businesses who appreciate the city’s efforts to preserve open and green space. Revitalizing traditional commercial corridors.
- Keeping the area clean and culture/history alive
- Challenges are that the people in charge are not looking out for the best interest long term. Trying to make shady deals to benefit a few and take away a beautiful green space.
- Not enough places/ Programs for children In middle school to keep them busy during the summer and after school
- Lowing taxes.
- Poor roads, hurricanes, poor water quality, we have lost way too much trees due to developments and now we can hear traffic from Wampanoag trail and music from providence in riverside. We need to keep our children safe from predators in person and online. Since COVID cars speed on my street all day long
- Keeping green space
- More focus is needed towards education. I am happy about the new high school but the quality of education also matters.
- Communication to the residents
- Affordable housing Green space Small business
- -progressive on social issues -culture of anti racism -more youth led events (like PSU in Providence)
- politics
- Mediocre schools (we pay Barrington level taxes and don’t have Barrington school results), high property taxes No city center, Poor retail centers
- City government that does not listen to or care about it's residents. Too many backroom, underhanded people with their own agenda. Mayoral system is destructive. This is not a kingdom to be ruled over.
- Drug use, cleanliness, general upkeep
- Equity in housing. When shopping for a home I heard with my own ears a selling agent tell my sister the elementary school is great, the other young families were just like hers and there is NOT a lot of diversity ( as if it was a selling point, as if diversity is what makes a school not great) Granted this was in 2014 before recent events enlightened some people, but this is a local selling agent with his office in the same community! Larger state economic issues, closing businesses creating high turn over. We all leave the city for shopping, big box stores and places for a day of shopping are all in other places. Undeveloped, poorly maintained or just straight ugly commercial land and spaces. Today some sidewalks are terrible for those traveling in wheelchairs forcing my family member in road. Sometimes it is the travel surface (heaves and cracks) or it’s the telephone poles that don’t provide clearance for passage.
- Lack of growth forward. Schools in desperate need of fixing.
- Keeping & maintaining recreational/open green space like parks, saving current green spaces for health & ecological reasons! \*aka Metacomet!
- The amount of noise being created in the city is obnoxious, there needs to be extremely strict enforcement of noise ordances on Motorcycles, Loud cars with crap exhaust or illegally modified these can be impounded and 5 day tagged with LARGE fines. Dirt bikes and atvs need to be confiscated and destroyed if on the road illegally.

Extremely loud stereos in cars, or residence need to be addressed in a heavy handed manner either steep fines or leins on property. Ban Air bnb. Police doing actual traffic enforcement and NOT AUTMATED CAMERAS.

- Responsible growth, preservation and protecting our green space and open space zoning
- health and food security, youth education, broadband/internet access, affordable housing
- Bringing the town together. Creating a town center And using the center to create a sense of community.
- Sustainable growth of the city of EP.
- Open space with grass, trees, and public park amenities. Better roads. Better sidewalks
- Not having an appropriate recycling system for one. Another issue is that this town does not have any swimming pools or enough splash parks for the kids. Rumford does not have any at all. This town does not offer any type of relief from the heat for kids. Also giving children 20 minutes for lunch is terrible this is contributing to childhood obesity, because they don't get enough exercise either. Lack of public transportation, sidewalks to people can walk safely.
- Keeping population from moving after graduation. Saving open spaces. Retail store competition from Seekonk.
- Unions
- Too much building and road traffic
- Making use of underutilized land while preserving important green spaces
- Road and sidewalk MAJOR improvements needed
- -needs more of a "downtown" feel with additional businesses and restaurants -needs to prioritize community over larger businesses (I've had a personal nightmare with grieco since moving into my home that I've complained about multiple times and has never been followed up on in any capacity) -infrastructure—roads and sidewalks need more attention. Sidewalks don't seem to be accessible for wheelchair users.
- How to keep that feeling. We don't need more stores. We can't compete with Seekonk just over the border when Mass Sales tax is less. We need to keep the neighborhood feeling
- More subsidized housing.
- Slowing vehicles down. Longer pause on red lights before other light turns green. Need cameras. Fine litter bugs. Become more eco friendly.
- There are too many low income and section 8 type houses. The city needs more single family homes, that are affordable options for all.
- Biggest challenges is housing for low income families. Also the landlords that except low income are slumlords and get away with treating families as they want as long as they receive there money. Another challenge is fixing the issues in the school district and schools were higher ups and head of departments in these schools can and are allowed to treat families as they wish and to deny an education and ignore IEPs and let a child suffer and not all teachers and staff or higher ups but in my experience it's been a tough situation to not access a lawyer over the treatment to my child and myself especially in two specific schools one being an elementary and one a middle school.
- This city is run by small minded cronies. As long as we have "connected" people out for self gain we can never move forward. This is our challenge, the biggest.
- Trying to keep the small town vibe that we should have!! Over development and poor choices in what is built and more apartments, compared to single family homes lead to decreased quality of life for others.
- Realizing that every one of them work for the people.
- Roads and sidewalks
- Save our green spaces, don't not get so urban and built up we become an arm of Providence, and lose our roots.East Providence, Riverside was once a summer retreat.A beautiful seaside destination.We need to continue keeping our shore lin and beach areas our green spaces and parks, beautiful and unmolested for future residents to enjoy.And want to visit and live here.
- Clean air, traffic issues
- Housing Housing Housing

- Trusting the people who are elected to office Now, then, and forever. The history is not on their side, back room deals and nepotism run rampant through this city.
- Trying to keep businesses and stores thriving, not as many empty stores.
- - Infrastructure (very happy with the Henderson bridge update/upgrade). - Lack of parks and greenspaces in some areas - Connectivity
- The sewage processing plant in Riverside is a problem. The residents in the area near the brunt of EP and Barrington's stink. This needs to change. The Metacomet issue is also a challenge although I don't there's much to be done outside of a community style take over by the town or state. We have to be able to create taxable income on this space without running the character of East Providence.
- Need to attract more young people/young adults with families. A large amount of the population is older, and young families are the way to go. The best way to do that is to improve school ratings/show how good East Providence schools are outside of ratings. The other would be to increase the number of interesting restaurants/cafes in the area. Borealis Coffee is a huge draw, and between that and the bike path is a large reason why I chose to buy in Riverside.
- I have lived in this city all my life. I am a proud Townie. The one challenge I see for the city is the deterioration of some parts of the city. Coming off 95 mainly across from City Hall really needs a makeover I would like to see a whole new streetscape and signage with lots of red brick and black iron. The center of the city is starting to look Ghetto, especially from six corners down. From unkept strip malls to unkept properties.

### If you were gone for 20 years and returned to East Providence, what would you like to see?

- Me gustaría seguir viendo el orden y NO sobre población. Mejorar el estilo de vida de la población vulnerable y promover mediante programas métodos de alimentación y bien estar.
- Clean roads and more businesses. We need more stores such as Walmart or Target. They could easily set up smaller sized businesses here in EP.
- I'd like to see more small businesses on currently neglected business streets, but other than that, the successful preservation of a community that works. It would be nice if City Hall, which is franky butt-ugly, could be torn down and replaced by something that doesn't look like a medium security prison, but that's doubtless just wishful thinking on my part.
- better roads, better schools
- Clean streets. Nice roads.
- more walkable community, more beautiful public spaces. less trash and pollution, fewer abandoned buildings, more community art. Family-friendly city planning
- New roads and underground utilities Tax stabilization for the elderly Affordable rental housing Public beaches Modern high tech. schools Sidewalks that are in good repair
- Excellent schools
- More respect for the unique architecture, a kind of "hometown" atmosphere that is upheld by City Planners. To make this City more pedestrian friendly. With parks that invite people in to them.
- I would like to see a similar looking city as to what we have now, maybe with better waterfront access
- More affordable homes and more arts and culture. Better schools.
- A lively downtown area with varied venues and shops. Places were people go out of their way to visit, like a grassy open area park with electricity and water available for outdoor entertainment (bands, small "festivals", kite flying, etc). A clean, well maintained city full of happy people, who feel they get more out of living here than just living here. (Don't get me wrong. I see it going in this direction already.)
- Not anymore of what's out there already. East Providence USED to be a nice quiet, comfortable place to live. I do NOT find that to be true today. It's a mini NYC!

- That the challenges stated in number two have been addressed 2) That the city has maintained it's schools
- Visionaries, not politicians managing the City
- More trees. Bike parking spaces at libraries, parks, schools. More mass transit opportunities. ALL houses connected to sewers!!! Buried overhead wires - fewer power interruptions and better aesthetics!
- Better infrastructure and lower taxes and water bills.
- Well kept private and public properties, open spaces for public use/resident use.
- Waterfront built up to encourage visitors and locals to spend time outside (a swimming worthy beach would do wonders), the older urban areas of the city updated as much as possible, more beautification and sidewalks. This makes the city less a place to drive through on and more somewhere to stop and visit
- Solar panels on all public buildings, waterfront public space where the water is swimmable and there is community interest in keeping the waterfront clean, diverse, alive, and vital.
- The parkway as it is now w the greenery of Metacomet. Also, better funding for the schools.
- More businesses and better kept residential areas
- Open public space, green space, parks and forests
- More adaptive reuse of old buildings, especially oldham school.
- Areas in the City that are getting depressed, cleaned up.
- More parks and affordable housing
- same neighborhood feel - more affordable housing - steps taken to promote renewable energy/fight climate change.
- The advancement of the city landmarks, housing and parks.
- Less building more businesses in vacant building.
- Metacomet as a municipal golf course & great Azirean restaurants
- Better traffic patterns.
- Nice streets and sidewalks that are paved. no empty blighted buildings, maintained buildings and properties.
- I would like to see a more small time city/town feel. More homey feel. Less providence like.
- Metacomet golf course being run as a municipal facility like Triggs in Providence
- Green space! Investment in sustainability/ going green. New elementary and middle schools! More affordable housing! Less police.
- Clean beaches, lighting and art on bike path, more waterfront dining.
- The Riverside Square vibrant and bustling.
- More trees, updated playgrounds and parks, and diverse teaching staff in our public schools
- Much more greenspace, Metacomet transformed into a public park.
- Affordable properties to live in. 2. Neighborhoods that offer outdoor fun and adventures for all 3. Metacomet as green as it is today 4. A city that shows off its talent in the Arts, Crafts and Music
- Everything in question 2 addressed
- Larger parks and outdoor amenities. More funding for the schools and libraries.
- Vibrant, robust, attractive business corridors that are full of eateries, small shops, and congregation spaces. 2. Clear evidence of the city's encouragement of entrepreneurship and of the city's role in building opportunities and movements that support these entrepreneurs and their small businesses. 3. Vibrant and engaging spaces for young professionals to meet and build community. 4. A waterfront that provides recreational access, but is not overdeveloped in ignorance of the CRMC's reports that most of it will be underwater in less than 100 years. 5. An active and well-funded land trust that preserves green spaces for the future and creates hiking and kayaking opportunities.
- Nothing change that existed and more arts and activities going on. I'd like to see a more walk/bike friendly place. More access to bike paths to enable families to walk/bike or gather together.
- My family. (Hey, you asked.) Green spaces. Parks to enjoy without dodging golf balls or baseballs.

- Hunts Mills and Bridgham farm (and all the others) preserved as green space. No empty storefronts on main streets. Farmers Market (like the one on Orms St).
- The parks in good shape and well maintained (Larissa seawall fixed). Development consisting mostly of attractive housing. More business in Riverside Square.
- A vital waterfront, diverse community, great school system, shopping and entertainment options in downtown
- More sidewalks, more public access to the waterfront Downtown which is a “heart of the City” A destination with clubs, restaurants and music venues
- Community activities, clean functional roads and parks. More inclusive spots near water. More land dedicated to wildlife. Less expensive housing.
- A diverse community equally represented. Clean, safe neighborhoods.
- More inclusion of other races in leadership positions
- A viable downtown area!
- Red light cameras and more works of art and gardens.
- More of a high-end “city feel.” Develop water-front with stores, businesses and restaurants. More arts and cultural events, parks. Paved roads with trees. Community gardens,.
- I would like to see Riverside come alive again with small businesses, shops, restaurants, etc. I would love to see the abandoned school near the carousel demolished and the land made into a park or just left to grow wild for animals.
- Well maintained suburban neighborhoods, with a lot of local culture. We need to develop local entertainment options so people have places in the city to safely enjoy a night out. I want to see residents spending their money on local businesses.
- I would like to see home owners be allow to have some chickens.
- Clean up city proper. The Warren Ave, and Broadway areas are a mess. Better police presence will help with traffic violators. The amount of running red lights, not yielding at signs and blowing trough stop signs WILL be tragic if not controlled soon.
- Some congested and older looking areas to be spruced up. Better flow of traffic to highways. More family public events.
- I would like to see more done with the space. I want to see the city thriving! I want to see this city get what it deserves! Facebook gives away what everyone is thinking and people only agree on one thing... taxes. Everyone wants more money in their own pockets OBVIOUSLY! Who wouldn't?! But everyone also wants nice roads and pretty gardens, bick paths and acres for coyotes to live so they can complain about it later.. How can we meet in the middle so we spend less money and get nice things? We get this city worth coming to by doing simple cheap things like cleaning under a bridge and build from there. Make people want to buy property here, want to spend money here.. live here! That will give this city more money to work with its citizens and everyone wins. However it will take time, team work, and transparency.
- I would like to see the unused, urban areas renovated and reused for positive purposes that helps the community grow. Many people who grow up in East Providence leave for MA communities, such as Seekonk. It would be great to provide better work/life opportunities that encourage people to stay and further build on the community's positive strides.
- More green. Clean streets. Kids and families enjoying open space like crescent Park. Boutique and small businesses thriving. More of a town feeling than the big city its becoming. We don't want to be Providence or Boston.
- I would like to see riverside as an upper class community as well as local businesses flourishing in the available commercial space we currently have
- more art programs, better roads, police more involved in the community
- more green spaces stop building and refurbish what is not being used. We need space for humans and wild life to coexist

- Better roads
- Better roads, housing complexes, shopping mall, more recreational opportunities
- Increased usage of our waterfront property.
- Beautiful streets and no more empty storefronts!
- Better roads overall, throughout the city. Some improvement to the city's school infrastructure. My children have gone to Silver Spring, Riverside Middle and now the High School. Silver Spring could use "some improvements" for future generations, no doubt.
- Better infrastructure - the streets are horrible. The downtown riverside area totally revitalized. Able to swim at Sabins point - using that waterfront area for boating and water-based recreation.
- I'd love to see booming areas of business; vibrant downtown areas and people looking to East Providence as a place to visit for restaurants, family recreation, etc. I'd love to see the huge empty field that abuts Agawam Park turned into something useful like an ice skating rink (that could provide fun for residents and boost city income as well through skate rentals and/or tickets). I'd like to see East Providence Public Schools be one of the better school districts around, and the best urban school district in Rhode Island. I'd like to see Newport Avenue cleaned up, and that nasty motel finally shut down and turned into something nice. I'd like to see sidewalks put in on the busy part of Pleasant street leading to Hunts Mills and the recreation areas that border Seekonk, and I'd like to see the speed limit enforced there. There are so many people that jog, walk, bike, and push baby strollers down that street, and with cars and tractor trailers flying by going 50 miles an hour in a 35 mph zone, it's an accident waiting to happen with no sidewalks. I'd also like to see the bridge on Pleasant street (the one right near the Seekonk border) that goes over the Turner Reservoir stream finally be fixed. The sidewalk has been closed there with orange barrels for going on 4 years. It's time to fix that.
- See #1, as well as people actually swimming in the bay on our side!
- No empty retail stores. Updated roads and bridges. Updated schools.
- Pierce stadium cleaned up and modernized. Elementary and middle school facilities upgraded.
- Less abandoned buildings, higher academic scores, more community events, smooth roads.
- Better taxes and water bill
- Diverse inclusion being something East Providence is known for.
- more open green space. better streets that weren't filled with pot holes that could swallow a car. a better special education department for our schools.
- Green space A space for the arts better maintenance and heated sidewalks for students and everyday folks to be able to use on their way to school (all of Pawtucket Avenue) in the winter which would alleviate the responsibility of shoveling to homeowners on Pawtucket Ave. lack of clearing makes for dangerous walking in the actual street Turning the Crook Point Bascule Bridge into a Highline 'like' green space for folks to utilize between PVD and EP
- Better roads, improved cleanliness of the city. Replacing vacant businesses and store fronts with newer more modern businesses and buildings. Improved open spaces and more open spaces for the public.
- Abandoned or areas that look shabby improved!!!
- Green spaces, clean streets and home owners that love and care for their properties.
- A marina and more waterfront access.
- More single family homes and less apartment complexes. Fully paved and clean streets. More parks with more trees and open spaces.
- Visionary development of the waterfront. Bike and pedestrian friendly infrastructure that was well thought out and not done half-way. Infrastructure maintenance! Better retail and dining
- better roads. Some areas cleaned up. The Riverside square has turned around. Need to work on other areas like this.
- Better schools, continued services for seniors and youth, vibrant city parks.



- I would like to see Riverside square and that area leading up to the carousel developed ,as well as our waterfront.
- The total rebuilding of Roger Williams avenue including sidewalks on both sides, walls where needed. This road gets an incredible amount of traffic and should be made safer. They just repaved it but I feel they dropped the ball by not installing sidewalks on both sides.
- Green space. Pedestrian pathways, street art, trees trees trees. Green roofs on public buildings with solar panels and bee hives.
- Downtown life Waterfront living and activities. Restaurants on waterfront along with parks to attract people not what is done now be turning away.
- New leadership. Safer parks. Updated community gathering places. A better school system.
- A vibrant community where arts and culture flourish amid great open spaces for residents to enjoy year-round. This would be complemented by a state of the art recreation center to house indoor wellness and recreational opportunities for all ages. A stand alone performance venue or one incorporated into a recreation center would be ideal to bring community together in all seasons.
- Well maintained infrastructure. More arts and entertainment related development. Remediation of Brownfields and polluted water resources. Increased wind and solar energy production.
- A city that's more like Barrington
- The chevron gravel pit on the parkway turned into some sort of public venue. Maybe a Roger Williams kind of space. Plus I would like to see the Veterans parkway, slowed down and places for people to cross without fear. Right now, it's a freeway that goes through some of the nicest neighborhoods in east providence. Maybe even change the freeway access to go through more business areas rather than residential.
- Community green space and public access areas along the riverfront areas. The improved ability to safely get around EP without the need for a car.
- I probably would want to see more business less homeless and better roads
- Clean beaches. Refreshed downtown.
- More accessible areas that actually draw families to them. Essentially mini communities within the city where everything the typical person needs is withing a walk. Green spaces, small shops/restaurants within communities.
- More clean beach areas , more small local shops , a Dave's market
- Cleanliness. There's so much trash all over the streets. The roads and sidewalks themselves look dingy. Even the new buildings feel dirty. Use of existing land VS empty lots and buildings everywhere
- Family, Pierce Field, Onna Moniz Park, Taunton Avenue, the carousel and Larisa Park as well as what restaurants remain on Warren Avenue and other major streets in city.
- A vibrant busy city serving the needs of youth, adults and senior citizens in the community
- Growth of technical job opportunities, a nice downtown area for shopping and dining, cleanup of town north of 195
- Waterfront, improvements, so much potential for prime development on the water. Look at San Antonio, TX river walk we can do this here!
- Walkable communities that invite the development of small businesses with access to greenspace and outdoor space. It seems as if one good idea gets inflated to commercial level when keeping it small was just fine (concert park for example).
- I would hope that the schools & libraries would be successful and well maintained. That most of the families would send their children to the public schools. I would want to see that EP had retained as much open space as possible since we know that people who spend time out in nature are healthier in many ways. And hope that local businesses are thriving.
- I'd like to see a community that is not overbuilt or filled with developments and that values the emotional well being of its residents. More cultural and social activities.

- More trees. I'd like to see new development that was designed with sustainability in mind (solar, compost, low energy reliance).
- Bike lanes and sidewalks
- More thriving businesses in the neighborhood centers. This is only beginning in my neighborhood (Riverside). Better restaurants.
- Obviously a thriving community in all areas, economic, social, etc. A city that has embraced 21st century technologies. A city that just looks great.
- More community events and places to spend time. More green spaces and walking areas.
- Regular buses, more bicycle rights of way on the roads. Updated play equipment in the playgrounds.
- Lower taxes, more affordable housing, less litter.
- I like the remaking of Riverside square in the perseverance attitude
- Tidy streets with trees
- I would love to see a vital city engaged with its residents because the city had provided great schools and libraries and green, recreational areas, supported small businesses, and had focused on the critical work needed to manage climate change. I would also like to return to see residents swimming in a crystal clean upper bay!
- No oil tanks. Access to parks on waterfront. Expansive open space for wildlife and walking. More Portuguese restaurants and bakeries. Veterans' Memorial Parkway kept as a scenic drive using Olmsted's planning principles.
- test scores risen to above state averages more businesses and retail improved transportation Metacomet Recreation Area and Pierce Stadium in full use Well stocked libraries with energetic program offerings flourishing youth and senior programs Local government officials truly informed on important issues Less focus on Townie Pride which often turns new people away.
- A community that is walk able
- I would like to see some of the waterfront and metacomet areas developed into town centers that contain SMALL businesses, restaurants, public squares, walking parks, museum/art gallery's etc.. These public areas will be used to truly create a community in East Providence, and be the setting for large scale gatherings and traditions... There will be Christmas markets in December, Halloween party's in October, food drives in November, sailing lessons in May, concert series in the summer...
- Development of the waterfront with commercial and residential usage.
- Renewed structures and updated or new shopping areas Trader Joe's Sprouts Market Dave's Market
- Continued cleanup along the waterway; Riverside Square cleaned up and restored; More greenspace for locals to walk, exercise, etc.
- More trees!!!! A more attractive Riverside Square. Would love to see it look like downtown Barrington.
- Improved green spaces, rehabilitated downtown, shared used roadways, better bussing, better ADA compliance and accessibility - a thriving arts scene. Better public access and transportation. Community policing. More diversity in municiple staffing.
- Youth Center
- schools the caliber of barrington strong library system ( i think it's good now except for parking around weaver is difficult at times)
- More programs for our children, seniors as well as putting our tax money to help homeowner and business owners making the property look nice...Warren Ave toward downtown needs some major help it hopefully restoring some of those buildings etc.
- I'd like to see the denser areas cared for a little more. The triple deckers are a part of the history of New England, they provide housing to our residents, they deserve to live in beautiful clean spaces with adequate greenery. I know this is more on the owners of the property but incentives are great ways to encourage more care. (owner occupied, tax credits for local business use or something). I'm not sure feasibility but it's something I'd love to see for everyone.



- A thriving, vibrant city with walkable areas of mixed housing/commercial zones and plenty of green space for recreation.
- Low taxes, revenue neutral development that grows the tax base vs burdening existing residents. Easier transportation to and from providence ( easier highway, train? Boat?)
- Veterans memorial parkway with less traffic.
- Well upkept infrastructure.
- More green spaces, I feel like Larissa Park in Riverside is the closest we have to a nice walking area for families to gather and would like to see that in East Providence. Especially by the water.
- more small businesses and fewer empty storefronts
- Attractive landscaping along clean, well-maintained roads. Thriving small businesses where rundown, empty buildings now stand.
- The waterfront area to be built up. By built up, NOT just with a bunch of big box stores and apartment houses that I can't even access. I want to see the area revitalized with shops, bars, and restaurants.
- Status quo
- Enhancement of physical environment (cf above), improved educational/library system, better employment opportunities, more robust and sophisticated business sector, redeveloped infrastructure, full embrace of green energy initiatives.
- Welcoming streets that are drive-able. Strong community who is proud to live here.
- The same city as it was 20 years ago
- improved waterfront
- I would be happy to see that Metacomet was still there. That all development was built with an eye to the future needs of a sustainable planet. That the zoning laws are sensitive to the historical use of the different areas of the city.
- Tree-lined streets, renovated buildings (no more empty store fronts) with a Bristol-type (Hope Street not Metacom Ave:) So local small businesses, not chains. Wildlife, green (not grass) corridors and bike paths connecting all neighborhoods.
- Controlled smell of sewage system in Riverside, RI. Cleaning water in surrounding area so it could be used recreationally. Other recreational opportunities utilized.
- Improved schools, improved green recreational spaces, improved walkability.
- Clean shorelines, more trees
- No empty buildings. Cleaner city. More trees.
- Better public education system Better environmental / climate change incentives: - more native trees planted - community gardens - erosion control on beaches - storm water management so the bay is not getting polluted - educated population about the benefits of not using pesticides and chemical fertilizers - more solar
- All I can say is, I would like to see EP maintained and improved upon to support a vision that this little piece of the state could one day be a extension of what Providence has done in both the downtown area and Federal Hill. I have travelled "some" in this country and have met people all over who, when told I live in RI, show great excitement about visiting Providence! I would love to hear people get excited about coming here to spend their money in what might, one day, be another one of Rhode Islands treasures.
- I would like to see proper sidewalks and good roadways, with less road congestion - EP has such bad traffic (Taunton Ave, Pawtucket Ave). Where there were once empty storefronts or decaying buildings - there would be new life and a cohesive look. Every street carries memories from a different decade, without ever picking up the garbage from the past. I hope there is some sort of litter program too. Even a community service program (maybe the HS kids?) because there is so much garbage around this city. Lots of green space and water views.
- I would like to see car traffic redirected away from a designated cultural and thriving "downtown" hub -- a hub that featured small businesses, restaurants, public service offerings like libraries and parks, and that had walkable streets and access points. I'd like to see bike paths that clearly connects not only to the East Bay Bike

Path, but to downtown Providence. I'd like to see a city-wide, government- or nonprofit-run program that allowed for community garden or individual site-assessment plans for folks to convert part of their lawns and green spaces to native plant species or food forests. I'd like to see an independent book store and a space that featured local writers and authors to read. I'd like to see a thriving school system and robust, community-driven action that focused on sustainability, social justice and equity across all sectors.

- More vibrancy Let's fill the empty buildings and homes
- better side walks
- Clean Industry and an Active waterfront that allows the citizens to utilize the Water Features if this city.
- Better schools, more small business, green energy, open space
- paved roads, safe sidewalks, no sewer bill, better signage, no pot holes, more greenery (trees, plants, flowers), residents walking everywhere
- Everyone wants to see beauty and a successful local business atmosphere
- I actually had lived away for 15 years and returned to be able to afford water front property (Bullock Cove), a neighborhood with wide streets and little traffic, and newly constructed home with good sized rooms and a large lot. Moving forward, I would hope to have homes with universal design so that those with mobility issues can access housing. I would like neighborhoods that allow for dining at places other than pizza places. I would like upgraded store fronts and citizens who actually had pride in their city so that trash was minimal. I would like walking trails and parks, an interactive museum to educate those who visit the Carousel about the artistry that went into that treasure. We need a "destination" in East Providence. Can we include our indigenous peoples to include cultural activities here!
- More trees, Metacommet as Open Space, golf course or park, Watchemoket Cove cleaner and with healthy marshlands expanded, cleaner fishable bay, vibrant Portuguese bakeries and restaurants, oil tanks in EP and Providence gone, Providence scrap yard gone, accessible waterfront with parks for people to enjoy the beauty of the River, as in Newport, more open space with walking trails, bike trail remain in place, no more building on Veterans Parkway, Olmsted Brothers vision for the parkway used to replicate original plan
- lower sewer cost and/or the sewer plant gone
- Small community businesses fewer big box stores more space between homes, meaning larger house lots with greenery
- A thriving business community.... but there isn't seeing RI is the worst business state.
- no comment!
- Safer streets and road. I would like to see. Police officer do their job and enforce traffic laws, not just sit in cars and doing nothing.
- Hopefully, the coastline near the bikepath is still beautiful and not too built up with various condos and office buildings. I hope that the Carousel and other historic places are still as beautiful as they are today.
- The Carousel still operating and that area drastically improved and able to be used by residents and visitors.
- An updated community but with the same look and feel as before.
- The carousel
- More green spaces for public use
- Wow. I cannot imagine it
- A beach in EP Business opportunities
- Riverside square area being a hub of activity. Warren ave/ Providence side being established as an entry way into our great city.
- Many more recreational opportunities. Recreation and open space adds to quality of life. Outdoor pickleball courts. Keep Metacommet Green.
- More small businesses Carousel expansion family friendly Streets repaved Lower taxes
- Up to date school buildings fewer empty business spaces well maintained parks and beaches and shorelines
- More bicycle paths, increased commuter options and increased industrial tax base

- A swimming pool added to the new high school currently being constructed! When the prior East Providence High was constructed in the late 1950's it was the first school on the East Bay to have a pool which was the gem of all RI high schools at the time and a wonderful asset!
- I would like to see continued access to our shoreline and green spaces, like the space at the former Metacomet Golf course.!
- The Red Bridge Expressway extended to Pawtucket Ave! ( have been muttering to myself about that for 42 years) The industrial component removed from the riverfront and strong development from kettle Point up to Phillipsdale. At least half of Metacomet preserved as walking/picnic space. Would be great to see the club house as a City function site. What a lovely wedding venue. Watchemoket Square area accessible and safe for walking around the arts area it is intended to be. The center of the City as a center with real purpose.
- I have been gone for 20 years and am returning this year! I would like to see a more vibrant "downtown" with shops and restaurants, with bike lanes and more open public space.
- Good city zoning and easy access throughout the area.
- More town planning like barrington
- Exactly what I saw when I left. And the Tax rate at a stable rate.
- More new businesses, develop waterfront, better water
- Diversity in home ownership More public park spaces More areas for the arts
- i want it to transform like brooklyn was transformed
- A public park in Metacomet, the area along Waterfront Drive developed to provide access, useful businesses and green space to take full advantage of the riverfront location. Riverside Square vibrant with small eateries and shops. Sabin Point and Larisa Park beach open for swimming.
- Unobstructed water views, green space, less traffic.
- With technology always changing making easier for our residence to be able to have a bigger role and more day to day part of our decision making. Not everyone can make meetings with work and children. A day or two would not hurt on voting on a major or for that matter a minor issue!
- A cleaned up Main Street with good small businesses, empty lots cleaned up as good free parking areas. Also, more open and recreation spaces as the city is already dense in many areas. Would think a senior center / recreation area moving to where Metacomet is and using the existing senior center as an extension of the Shaw's plaza would be good.
- Vacant buildings are either renovated & occupied, or demolished and replaced with residential multi-family homes or condos. Less emphasis on bringing in more business, and more emphasis on building a thriving residential community (with multi-family homes, condos, and more parks/green space). The businesses that are here are more community and consumer-based (bakeries, coffee shops, restaurants) - which attract and provide value to the neighborhood - as opposed to industrial or commercial, that have the opposite effect for the local neighbors.
- No empty closed bldgs such as Shaws EP, Allison Reed bldg, Ballou, etc
- Improved community recreation, parks, playgrounds, and open space.
- A cleaner and open areas for public
- Green space
- Vibrant connected waterfront community. mass transit along the water, connecting to ferries.
- More green space, street tree planting.
- The ability to maintain living in a quiet area or surrounded by a bustling array of businesses.
- Fewer empty stores and buildings. More open and green spaces. Less conjection. More trees!
- Exploitation of the waterfront space!! Bold point park had concerts and there were ALWAYS boats in the water. Use the assists to your favor!!
- A higher education population.
- A tree filled, bustling city, book fairs, and Cape Verdean festivals.

- Better road conditions 2. Fiscally sound city 3. Small businesses that are thriving. 4. A beautiful park like setting where Metacomet now stands
- More utilization of the waterfront.
- The city help get the run down and boarded properties revitalized and repurposed. For East Providence to be the family friendly city it used to be.
- I would like to see citizens who are happy and proud to be Townies. Revitalization of school buildings, children who are actually learning and being taught by teachers who love their job more than their benefits. Local businesses that are thriving and a large population of people that actually use our open spaces.
- Waterfront development within reason. Not over done. Local Small Businesses thriving Enough elementary and middle schools
- Beaches.! A quant thriving city.
- I would like to see a more walkable and bike friendly community. I would like to see the vast stock of neglected commercial property properly redeveloped. I would like to see a major park where Metacomet is.
- I would love to see a waterfront that people can use and enjoy and not just for the wealthy
- More restaurants in Riverside, hotel/restaurants/retail along the waterfront drawing visitors from nearby cities/towns.
- Development, lower taxes, better roads, better schools.
- More visible arts and festivals with a growing art community, safe streets, a wider range of types of businesses, promotion of sensible moral standards.
- More concerts at bold point. Community programs at parks. Art and crafts programs for kids and more farmers markets. Employment of youth at parks and recreation programs. Vocational school programs in auto, electric, and plumbing. Fishing Derby's.
- Greater fiscal responsibility by our local government as well as consistent transparent communications between public servants and the taxpayers who fund them.
- A completely new waterfront
- More clean viable small businesses, restaurants. Respect for the environment and neighborhoods on the waterfronts. Better zoning enforcement to clean up property. I realize people may not have money for updating or repairs, but keeping your property clean FREE!!
- A 100% solar city. More greenery throughout the city. Improve the community on waste reduction (trash, electric, water, gas, oil etc). East Providence business in electrician, plumbers, constructions, that work with high school students to get jobs when they graduate. Student run green house (bring it back) have seniors volunteer.
- Better roads; less vacant buildings
- A beautified version of the city. More thriving businesses, a bustling waterfront, and a variety of public art.
- Businesses back to normal, Solar power, wind power
- Lower taxes
- An ice rink Beautiful parks no more development
- nothing changed
- Less empty buildings, better housing opportunities for less fortunate and elderly.
- I would like to see that we have hooked up to Pawtucket's water, saved Metacomet from being developed and have beaches in Riverside where we can swim.
- Renovations, better looking city.
- Green space and parks retained. Revitalized already existing storefronts that currently stand empty.
- cleaner city, able to call city an go to city hall
- A good mix of industry to help with employment and taxes. Also, recreational areas, especially along our waterfront for people to enjoy.

- Neighborhood improvements of older homes. Much improved public school system. The new high school will go a long way toward this, but improvements need to be made in the quality of education in the rest of the schools.
- \*Lush green open space available to residents and visitors \*Utilization of the shore for recreation and strategic retail \*All storefronts utilized in some capacity
- Smart development that prioritizes natural areas, access to the water, biking, and walking. Small areas with restaurants, coffee shops, and other local businesses clustered together. Recognition and promotion of industrial history and regional heritage. Vibrant farmers markets.
- The Metacomet Golf Course preserved as a nationally touted role model open-space property on protecting and preserving nature close to a major US city. It would include: 1. Organic farms and greenhouses where folks can buy vegetables or have a CSA - reduced for residents of EP 2. Save the Bay outpost where folks learn about the importance of keeping our waters clean 3. Audubon Society outpost where bird nests and houses are placed for migratory birds etc - where folks can learn about bird species 4. Preservation of frog habitats 5. A butterfly farm planted for migratory declining species like the Monarch Butterfly 6. Bee hives placed for pollination of the farm - an educational opportunity 7. Wind turbines placed if enough wind, to power the visitor center, farm, and near by neighbors 8. Solar panels placed for energy production and part of the green energy education 9. A bridge connecting this magnificent property to the bike bath with paths throughout the property with signage to educate all who visit on the various ways we are making an effort to protect our earth This would be an educational powerhouse for children throughout the state and Massachusetts, and for all visitors. Local folks could walk or bike through it, visit the outdoor museum of sorts, or purchase fresh produce. School field trips, summer day camps, collaborations with our local universities.... possibilities are endless. It would become a nationally known destination and a role model for others to follow.
- Beautiful parks along the East Bay from Pawtucket to Barrington. Walking and bicycling (also electric) access throughout the City. No cars - maybe autonomous electric vehicles that whisk you to where you want to go. Smart development stemming from a comprehensive plan that is supported by all residents. Revitalized walkable downtowns (3) that support cultural activities and restaurants.
- A lively thriving community with a smartly developed waterfall.
- New restaurants and business. More older homes being rehabbed.
- Better schools. More trees, park areas.
- I was gone for 20 years and returned ---- ---would like to see something done about American Legion on Willett Ave. --- building is old and dated. Also would be nice to see some development at Shaws Plaza in Riverside. A community center or some thing for the children of the city would be good.
- Vibrant main streets. Bike lanes on major streets (Waterman, Warren, Bullocks Pt, etc.)
- More parks, better investment in the bike path. More commitment to the arts and development of our shared spaces. More access to the water. Development of our coastal resources for the benefit of all. An investment in the villages of the city based on their individual assets and history (riverside, rumford, etc). Better management and access to waterways (rivers and streams). Development of beaches and warm weather recreation. Economic encouragement of independent locally owned businesses.
- A health food store, increased “third spaces,” swimming at Sabin point, healthy and diverse restaurants.
- The waterfront developed (with climate change considerations) A city center (City Hall, Park, shopping district all integrated).
- More trees lining the streets, underground telephone and electric poles. The legion in Riverside and the CVS cleaned up. It is rumored that CVS wants to move. Please be sure they build a neighborhood store and not a giant monster like the one on Reservoir Ave in Cranston.
- More open space and quality rec areas. I was actually gone for 30 years and note the loss of lots of open space and the still poor condition of our parks and playgrounds. I recall an RI Monthly article a few years ago that listed EP as having the smallest percentage of any city in the state. Young and old need room to roam!

Furthermore, most of the improvements made to the playgrounds have been by volunteers. While the citizens' action is commendable, it's also condemnable to the city leadership who could not handle routine duties.

- Jerry's Auto Repair at 255 Bullocks Pt. avenue erased from existence. This public eyesore is nothing short of a blight right in the center of Riverside Square that can not be allowed to continue. Our city has found an unexpected gem in Borealis Coffee. Since it set up shop in Riverside it has vitalized the entire area. There are a host of new businesses and the sense of rebirth is palpable, with one exception. Jerry's Auto, a public embarrassment that should have been dealt with years ago. In 1984 the City attempted to seize the property by eminent domain. Admittedly, our legal Department did a poor job back then and since that time the owner, who is not an East Providence resident, has made no effort to maintain the property in any reasonable manner. Moreover, there is no lawful business registered with the RI Secretary of State, RI Division of Taxation or the Department of Business Regulation. There is abundant cause to shut down the business yet no one in Government has done a thing to remove this eyesore in over 35 years. Make it happen EP.
- Attractive fully developed waterfront, high end retail, vibrant Riverside square.
- Smart development of the waterfront. Metacomet Country Club kept intact as an open space green area.
- Town eliminated; split up into smaller self governing villages where a single voice means something. Resident voting access on all decisions via internet; daily emails on local, state, national and planetary issues that users decide are important to them, and voting on them.
- Better schools. The Metacomet club as a beautiful public park. Improvements in housing. Responsible government. Better educated residents. Arts and culture
- A sharp decline in the look of neighborhoods in Riverside, more noise, less stability. That's why I'm moving.
- Carousel Parks Keep and redevelop well-designed historic buildings Vibrant arts and music
- More job opportunities, more green space, led lighting.
- A young, progressive, forward thinking city government.
- I would like to see the city made more walkable with investment in urban green infrastructure. I would also like to see more investment in schools, not so much in the buildings as in the quality of the education and creativity of the curriculum.
- Mature 20 year old trees on every street
- A beautiful public green space/park where Metacomet is. A revitalized riverside square. Clean water at Sabin point so people could swim. Environmentally conscious, visually appealing and well planned development and urban revitalization
- a vibrant waterfront
- less traffic, better environmental protection and green space, affordable housing
- The insane Bow-Tie traffic configuration demolished and replaced by a modern solution.
- More public art and development of the Waterfront
- Veterans Memorial Parkway being absolutely gorgeous and a jewel visually; golf course and banquet venue operating where Metacomet is; Watchemoket Village booming with quaint businesses; waterfront transportation between EP and Prov just like Baltimore's Inner Harbor; Sabin Point beach as an attraction with a clam shack or operating restaurant/shops
- Cleaner streets, less pot holes and bumpy roads
- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, an active waterfront with nightlife and recreation. Complete streets. Neighborhood streets that are 10-20 feet wide so they are safe for children and local traffic. Fewer parking lots. Taunton and Waterman Ave that have much higher densities, 4-5 floor buildings with more apartments.
- More trees, less litter, sidewalks that aren't dangerous, better air quality, bus shelter at every stop, Kettle Point development razed to the ground.
- A city similar to what it is now with open spaces supporting wildlife and ability to see the water etc
- A seamless connection from the older neighborhoods to the waterfront. For instance, the Waterman Ave area between Massasoit and James St. This could be an amazing mixed-use neighborhood. Shops, restaurants,



galleries, service businesses along the street with a plan for more industrial uses to be encouraged to a side street or back streets. To truly make it vibrant and encourage waterfront development that is not isolated there needs to be a better connection between the waterfront and this area. The DOT plan is not the safest for pedestrians that want to access the waterfront. Turn the Waterman Ave section on the water into a little park good for hanging out, picnics, fishing, etc. Give people a reason to go there and feel safe.

- I would like to see Metacomet Golf Club as a public course or keep the front nine and make the rest for a beautiful park with possibly several soccer fields along Lyons Ave. It would be a terrible mistake to lose such a pristine piece of land to more of the same. It's a quality of life issue and a draw to people outside of EP.
- smooth street with less damaging potholes, beautiful tree lined streets and children playing together outside, neighbors communicating. Neighborhood/community picnics or outings. We have beautiful parks lets use them to get the community together without fear. Less abandoned buildings and vacant lots.
- I would like to see a thriving beach front. I would hope to see green space preserved. I would hope the school system would be as good as the surrounding towns.
- Rumford is the best part of East Providence. Riverside needs some love and East Providence is bisected by 195.
- My family members have come to visit and cannot believe the changes! Not for the better. Too many houses crammed into small lots. When we became a city is when it started to become a less desirable place to live If we continue no one will want to live here
- zone restrictions, trees and green spaces, access to swimming,
- Better street lighting
- big box stores
- More solar electricity.
- Clean open space in good repair. Playgrounds in tip top shape. Clean shorelines. An improved “ Crescent Park”. Roadways with no potholes. No blight in our neighborhoods. A rec center that citizens voted to build 10 years ago.
- I'd like to see more parks and schools in good condition - not a huge comprehensive high school, but smaller high schools that specialize in specific areas of interest: science, math, English, arts, prep for commercial enterprises, etc.
- Open space and the ability to enjoy recreation at the waterfront.
- Kettle point back to woods/nature
- Better tasting drinking water and more green space
- More open space and schools that I would want to send my children to.
- more beautiful public waterfronts excellent quality drinking water high tech employers more sidewalks well maintained roads and bridges more open spaces
- Metacomet, undeveloped. Green space preserved. Neighborhoods of one and two family houses, as there are now. Carefully controlled development.
- More prominent Watchemoket Square awareness and historical references; Riverside Square as a village; Metacomet as a park; more public art; on road bike lanes; international accolades for waterfront development including public access
- just the way it is now with better roads and a better government
- If I returned after 20 years away I would head right to the shoreline and gaze down the Narragansett Bay.
- People living and working together in a more green and clean healthy environment
- A walkable community that celebrates the arts and culture. Greater neighborhood density with pocket parks sprinkled throughout the city. Viable public transportation alternatives to personal autos.
- Thriving Riverside Sq and Taunton Ave/downtown. Ability to get around easily and quickly without a car. Residential and commercial use of the water front. Relevant and engaging high school pathways options for all students.
- Affordable housing and more small business

- more single family houses. more open space
- Cleaner streets, Overall maintenance of public areas. Out with the old & in with the new. More vibrant energy is needed in the community.
- A better street layout. The 'bowtie' shape around Broadway is just...weird. I'd also like to see the Henderson bridge better integrated into the street system.
- A true city center around City Hall. The current feel of that area is just a state road passing through the area. A stronger embrace of the city's past history as a summer get-away. I'm not saying 10s of thousands of people coming to visit every day in the summer, but I would like to see us embrace and maybe profit from our rich summer colony history. I like to see the Riverside Square revival come to its complete fruition. I'd also like to see a revival/repurpose of the many little squares around the city. A restored and functioning beachfront. A permanent and dedicated solution to the bike path's connection to the City of Providence. Minimal development of Metacomet with less focus on shopping. A little better welcoming to newcomers from lifelong residents.
- No homeless people elderly and children.
- Fewer police, less concrete and large parking lots, fewer cars. Fewer empty store fronts. More alternative transportation infrastructure like bike lanes and better side walks. A central walkable "main street" district with locally owned shops and restaurants. A waterfront with easy boat access and restaurants or breweries in the land near the Henderson Bridge. Excellent public schools.
- I would like to see more community centers, as well as cleaner and safer neighborhoods.
- More community! Bike paths, walking paths, public art, and outdoor gathering spaces.
- If I were gone for 20 years, I would like to see East Providence returning to a place of recognition from tourists around the country. EP used to be a popular tourist destination with the inclusion of Crescent Park, however with the absence of this park and the city's waterfront attractions, it's nationwide-popularity and recognition has substantial decreased. In 20 years, I would hope these attractions would return in a modern style, to create a greater sense of pride among the community.
- I would love to see more people outdoors and people stopping to allow people to cross the street and abide by crosswalks. In addition. I would love to see more outdoor spaces on the waterfront being utilized for all. We have so much waterfront land that is not being capitalized on. It would be wonderful to see some outdoor dining, shops, and a beautiful walking path along the water. Maybe the ferry that travels to Newport and Bristol could include a stop to East Providence and back to Providence for the summer.
- A Mayor and city council who listens to their constituents, not developers!
- No more building, improved roads, preservation of open space.
- I would not like to see more abandoned stores, more street traffic and no green space.
- More trees and forested areas. Redevelopment of abandoned plazas and office buildings.
- Better welcoming when entering The Riverside Square
- Green space, good roads, a good school system and some honest politicians.
- A thriving waterfront and neighborhoods that look the same as when I left. Parks and schools that are a hundred percent handicap accessible Sidewalks Street lights that actually throw light instead of the dim orange glow we live with currently The parkway looking exactly like it does right now Clean public spaces like parks and beaches
- Cleanup the polluted areas north of 195.
- living wage jobs with health care and pension top notch businesses that pay a fair wage and benefits
- I would like to see Taunton Ave look more like Main Street in East Greenwich. I'd like to realize the leadership has taken responsibility for protecting the natural beauty of the city. I'd like to see an infrastructure that supports electric vehicles and environmentally friendly sources of energy. Finally, I'd like a government that is genuinely concerned with the interests of its constituents.



- Same "small town" feel- families enjoying the community. Pawtucket Ave repaved and sidewalks repaired. Thriving business community (no vacant storefronts)
- Nicer parks
- The empty store fronts filled and green space
- I would like to see all the golf courses preserved as green space. I would like to see more parks similar to Colt State Park.
- The calm and peaceful environment
- We are currently trying to get out of EP because it has just become a disaster. I would like to return to a place that is committed to its residents where there is plenty of green space, where we have positive revenue from our assets including the carousel and small businesses. I would like to see our waterfront maintained and cleaned regularly including Sabins Point and Crescent Park. I would like to see a town that is thriving but still maintaining its small town vibe the we all know and love. And I would love to see EP being lead by someone passionate about the entire town, not just the center, not just money, but passionate about advocating for their residents all the time, not just when its self serving and convenient.
- the city cleaned up, for example, roads in better conditions, property nicely landscaped.
- The Metacomet golf course kept as open space.
- More green space. Revitalized Riverside.
- Side walks connecting every streets. where people can walk around safely instead of cars parked everywhere and no sidewalks forcing people/children/elderly to walk in middle of the street to go anywhere. It would encourage people to be more active and create a livelier neighborhoods where people don't have to rely so much on cars. I would like to see composting and a big reduction in trash. I would like the Petroleum/tar/asphalt industry that pollute the air that smell horrible and ruin the quality of life of everyone gone. Instead having zero waste business that are environmentally friendly and use renewable resources or work in technology and create jobs. I would like updated websites and online payment of taxes etc be fully updated (it's an absolutely horrible programing job done right now hopefully it won't take 20years to update it could be done in a week!!!!) . I would like nature to be more present and supported on every property with program helping people choose and plant native plants to support wild life.
- I would like to see the Metacomet Country Club land still designated as open space and ownership transferred to the city of East Providence for recreational use; I would like to see more moderate to larger homes being built in EP so expanding families will not need to cross the border into Massachusetts to buy new homes. I would like to see a more responsive government that listens and cares about the concerns of its citizens rather than just humoring them.
- No more Developments
- Green space at Metacomet.
- Don't plan on returning. However, KEEP METACOMET GREEN.
- No university orthopedic type buildings or large plazas. Would like to see it look like it does now but rehabilitation of empty spaces.
- Happy faces, NO empty storefronts or commercial space, as well as LOTS and LOTS of green/open space. We are already overcome by the former, and rapidly losing the latter. All these things will prove to be extremely detrimental to the City and its residents in all ways (i.e., financially, emotionally, etc.).
- The Metacomet property left undeveloped and open to the public for recreation.
- A more functional city center, with ample municipal free parking for residents. A town center where residents can go to city hall, the post office or library, while meeting friends for coffee or lunch/ dinner.
- Green space, parks, bike paths. A River front recreation area. An embrace meant of climate awareness.
- Nice roads, nice green spaces, university orthopedic building and kettle point out back to green space. Empty buildings full

- The Metacomet property as a state park with full amenities including a community recreation center with combined live performance center.
- More parks, less crowded streets, more green every where.
- A beautiful and welcoming city that elected officials haven't permanently damaged in a quest to bring in new revenue through misguided development decisions.
- Clean beachfront. Bullocks point storefronts/shops
- A thriving coastal community with shops and boutiques that draw consumers and locals to our beautiful town. Not big box stores and complexes!
- More artistic murals on overpasses sides of buildings. And homeowners and landlords required to keep their property clean and free of debris
- The city of EP that takes care of all residents.
- more trees and less cars speeding down suburban streets, also less creepy men with backpacks wandering the streets, we need more opportunities for kids such as sports, arts, etc...
- Green space
- I am happy to see the splash pad added to the community parks. I would love to see a community pool that EP residences could buy season passes to.
- The carousel taken care of and other historical sites around the city being used the way they were years ago.
- More green space More parks and trees Thriving main streets with small businesses
- -affordable housing -smaller, less armed police force -less empty storefronts
- paved roads, clean streets, beautiful parks, and a vibrant waterfront
- More of a city center, retail that is rebust and welcoming, More industry to grow jobs Developed waterfront Metacomet golf course developed as Marshall prefers
- Less building, more green, trees and preservation. Concrete is disgusting and we have way more than we need.
- Growth, diversity and evolution of the community
- Stronger businesses, consumers that will stay in the city for their needs. I will drive past a poorly maintained EP business to a nicer facility in another city offering the same service. If you can't maintain your property in a simple way why should I trust your ability to provide a quality service? Strong community activities and recreational facilities, places to shop and more community involvement in parades and festivals. Possibly increase the quality and entertainment value of these events so that others from outside the community would want to come here and spend money for the day, evening or weekend. Trolley service around city for these activities or places would also add to the sense of community, increase visitors from other cities or states and pull in money.
- New schools new restaurants busy streets
- Lived here my whole life (51 years) but if things keep progressing the way they are I (& many others) just might end up leaving/moving 😞
- Neat and clean, good schools, and the city services statiny the same as they are good.
- More parks..more trees...and less ugly boxy buildings and vacant business parks
- health and food security, youth education support and equity, broadband/internet access, affordable housing
- Vibrant town center for shopping, eating and community activities.
- A viable, thriving community.
- Open space with grass, trees, and public park amenities. Better roads. Better sidewalks
- I would like to see more recreational field house where you can have fun all day and still be able to use the facilities. What about summer programs for kids that are reasonably priced, swimming pools or splash pads to get relief from the heat.
- Waterfront drive connected to Industrial Hwy. Power and telephone poles replaced with under ground utilities. City plowing major road sidewalks. Mountain bike park at Squantum woods with connection to bike path. Electric public transportation.

- Waterfront
- More green space, electric charging stations and better roads
- Flourishing small businesses linked to residential neighborhoods and balanced use of waterfront
- nice roads, clean streets and pride in homeownership as far as house maintenance goes
- A vibrant downtown. People walking around and not having to dodge rough sidewalk areas, lots of small businesses and restaurants
- A sense of home
- Speed/red light cameras. Softer/calmer building facades. More greenery. Positive messages. Flags on poles honoring people who served our country from EP.
- The historical aspects of the city come back to life. We have the quite a few historic spots to check out. It would be nice to see some more history in public spot for people to see.
- More housing, happier, healthier, and a change in what can be taught in schools as far as mental health issues, social studies and the more recent things going on in the real world these kids live in. Better places for children to play safely and happily.
- Open space, trees, a bedroom community to PVD a viable fun waterfront. All derelict buildings re-purposed. Downtown looking uniform, new signage and shops full. Currently our downtown looks like a quick drive through it is disgraceful .
- The concert venue become a permanent structure. Make waterfront parks more desirable with available waterfront parking views.
- I'd like to see smarter development and more open space. More pride in the city it's self.
- Green space and no more building.
- Clean shoreline with access to it. Nice sidewalks and paved roads. Less trash
- Empty stores and strip malls filled with businesses
- Nice roads and grass trimmed
- More green space
- More restaurants and businesses
- A beautification of the area surrounding the carousel
- No speed cameras.... waste of money for the city paying a company to install and maintenance. Not to mention you tick off 100% of the city
- A more vibrant city, with small business in certain areas. Way more green space ( there are some, yet most of them are tied to golf courses). Better health care facilities. On a mega-project level, connectivity to Warwick from Riverside (bridge).
- I'd like to see EP leading Rhode Island in the way of commerce. I'd like to see tech companies take up space in our industrial parks. I'd like to see thriving business on our main roads in Riverside square, Warren Ave, and rt 44. I'd like to see more tall trees in EP proper, more green where there is currently cement. I'd like more of our roads to feel like an extension of Veterans Memorial Parkway.
- I'd like to see improved bike lanes/bike access/utilization of the land near the bike path. The East Bay bike path is a huge artery sending people through the city all the time, and this MUST be used appropriately. I'd implore you to look at the Atlanta Belt line as an example. Basically, add more businesses such as Borealis along the bike path. There are a lot of vacant buildings in that area (Riverside), which are right off the bike path and could be a giant draw. The whole Riverside area is RIFE for revitalization. I also think improved bike lanes such as whats happening in Providence could help, or just making small offshoot bike lanes into East Providence proper/Rumford would be huge. The other thing would be improved schools. School ratings are tricky because of socio economic ratings, but if the ratings were slightly higher, Riverside/Rumford would look like much more enticing alternatives to Barrington.
- I would like not to see a Great Big Ghetto.

## How can the City serve the community better during the COVID-19 pandemic (or a future pandemic)?

- Under the circumstances, I think you did about as well as you could.
- protect the elderly in nursing homes... let low risk people (those under 65) go on with their lives.... lockdowns don't work (you gotta open up sometime)....masks don't work (if they did, we wouldn't have had the number of cases we did since like 95%+ are masked up everywhere I go indoors or out)
- Open up.
- Open ALL businesses WITHOUT restrictions. Let those who are not afraid move freely among the city businesses WITHOUT a mask. If someone is too afraid, they can wear a mask. DO NOT mandate bullshit if the science does not justify it. If you do your research and are willing to do a little math using CDC's own numbers, you will find that this virus has a 99.2% survival rate!!! sooooo....NO problem
- Continue to improve outdoor spaces/maintain existing outdoor spaces, more outdoor community events/family events
- You're doing all you can.
- have a fluid plan ready to go with the information distributed to the public. I believe pandemics will be part of our on-going future and knowledge is power.
- Be prepared to fast-lane any vaccines to EP, set up and operate centers for testing and vaccinating. (By the way, the Senior Center use for vaccines has been very well run.)
- Keep unnecessary buildings closed or open for appointments only. It's a hassle but it feels safer
- help EP residents to trust reliable news and scientific information
- Enforce mask mandates. Better protect fire fighters and police officers.
- Monitor elderly
- Better communication and volunteer opportunities
- More information going out to residents early on, not months into the pandemic. Water/sewer bills increased greatly during a time many people were losing income, which was a huge issue. Public signs reminding people to wear masks in congested areas, as other towns have done.
- Instead of holding special vaccination clinics at the Senior Center for certain people, it should have been open to all taxpayers according to age.
- Continue to keep communication open to the community.
- NA
- Flood us with information
- Be sure rights are not trampled upon
- Much better communication to residents, improved access to vaccines and health care resources.
- Too late now, it's almost over
- getting the info out to residents
- I was really impressed with the East Providence mask mandate going beyond what the state required. It made me feel that the city 1. cared about the residents and 2. cared about business owners by making it easier for them to enforce the mandate. More test sites with PCR testing would have also been beneficial especially on the weekends.
- There has been very little support from the city for the small businesses that already exist in East Providence. Many other cities in New England encouraged and supported their small businesses by creating outdoor gathering spaces, outdoor performance art, and various promotions that increased the number of visitors and potential sales for food businesses, in particular.
- Future vaccine distribution seemed somewhat disorganized and unnecessarily delayed. More regulating the process should be done. Applications at the beginning seemed to have gotten lost in the shuffle. I think the age should have been 65+ for first doses and a better system follow up to make sure everyone who wanted a vaccine

received it. A better system of identifying these Seniors should be done right now before we have a future pandemic. Have this contact list is critical . Many Seniors had to go outside of East Providence to get vaccine. I feel the younger generations are more able to go outside than our older seniors can.

- Making sure people have food they can actually eat without jepordizing their health. Not everyone can afford to have food delivered. Ever try carrying a week's worth of groceries while using a walker?
- Creation of city-wide registration for vaccination seemed late and slow for this pandemic. Could more testing sites be provided in convenient locations?
- Better communicate and Educate people
- More places should open for vaccinations. More vaccinations if possible. Reaching out to elderly house bound
- Better preparation for equitable distribution of testing and vaccine.
- Be more reasonable with the criteria when offering help. Take different perspectives into consideration instead of 1 rule applies to all.
- I would like the city to control the traffic passing through intersections more! This will encourage people to WALK more during this pandemic and not have to take the bus if they feel it's unsafe with Covid numbers.
- Prioritize vaccinations of essential workers, teachers, elderly and medically fragile ppl
- The city can serve the community better if the city law would change and allow home owners to have chickens.
- Communication. I have little to no idea what the city is or has done during Covid or where to get vaccines and the requirements. Everything I saw was from Gina Ramondo.
- N/a
- Continue to offer vaccinations. Make the registration process more accessible.
- The City needs to be prepared sooner than it was. Many saw it coming, and the City was slow to react.
- EP and surrounding communities are made up of primarily "essential workers." I am one of those. I work in a bank. Traffic has not changed, if anything it has increased. People come in because they suddenly had "time out" of work instead of adhering to the stay at home order. In short unless everything shut down, people will go out. They treated it like a paid staycation. The city and state should have given an appropriate amount of time for people to get what they needed and closed everything. Aside from of course hospital, first responders as needed.
- open more testing and vaccine sites.
- Be educated so something like this doesn't happen again.
- Add more sites for vacancies
- The city did a fine job with the guidelines issued by the state.
- The mayor's office has done a good job but there are too many public officials (specifically police force members) running around without masks or wearing masks improperly.
- Personally, I cannot cite anything specific.
- Make more city vaccination sites have robust appointment system to avoid congestion and long wait times.
- Weekly messaging updates. or post card mailing with updates on a weekly basis..
- When someone has a complaint you actually look into.
- Obtain the facts and other scientific data pertaining to any virus. After doing so, make the right decision with community involvement. Government should not infringe on people's health choices. Look up recent CDC facts that only 6% of total deaths our COVID-19 related. That alone does not warrant lockdowns and mask usage. Mask usage does not prevent any illness. The prevention of illness is simple wash your hands and don't touch your face.
- EP has done a great job...keep up the good work
- Preparation is the key. Clear instructions to citizens. Not everyone has the same IQ
- Shut down earlier and longer.
- Rapid testing sites for everyone. Vaccine availability

- make it easier for people to book appointments. make more announcements about where people can go to get vaccinations.
- They should have advertised better about going to the senior center for residents of EP only to be tested. I always needed to sign up through the state. Was not sure how to sign up to test at the EP Sr. center location.
- Just make sure seniors are prioritized and have site where people can easily get that vaccine if wanted.
- Better communication.
- Stop listening to politicians and news politics, let people and companies make their own health decisions. Encourage healthy options then leave us alone.
- Unsure
- Ensure restrictions are consistent and based on sound public health guidance
- I think it was handled as well as it could.
- Keep website up to date.
- Keep reaching out to the community. The messages from Mayor DaSilva are very well done and important.
- This has been tough due to lack of supply for the state.
- More help for small businesses.
- Instead of waiting until the last minute and not informing the community of plans, be proactive.
- Increase # of vaccine opportunities for all ages
- More vaccine sites
- There needs to be more funding for public health planning and readiness.
- Prepare schools for safety guidelines - air exchange, distancing, remote learning opportunities - and support teachers who are immunocompromised or at risk.
- Let individuals make their own choice
- Actually enforce health mandates (such as wearing masks!!).
- Recent letters enforcing types of smoke alarms or get fined people cant afford the expectations and are feeling anxious and threatened. How about cutting owners of tenements a break and open up their options of using battery powered instead of hardwired that can be very pricey their options are cut short with feelings of being run out of their homes to the ones that actually live in these types of housing. As long as they are maintained it shouldnt have to be a burden!
- Expanded vaccine access and testing
- I think the city did tremendous job dealing with all things COVID related
- More culturally sensitive/appropriate signage and outreach of preventative measures to get a better buy-in as well as a better/more monitoring of businesses. I see violations often at restaurants, bars and businesses.
- Keep communication as a priority.
- Na
- Use health care entities in the City to inform and support (and even execute) strategies to address crisis.
- I would have liked to see the schools open on a hybrid system with small groups of kids in school perhaps 2 days a week and remote learning the other days.
- I'm not sure. I've been happy with what I've seen so far.
- Who knows? I followed all the rules (masks, social distancing, I've done very little outside my home) and still tested positive for Covid.
- Require employees to wear masks
- Vaccine access.
- Property tax break, people lost their jobs!
- Knowledge of ability how to receive the Mayor's newsletters
- The City needs to be able to offer WiFi to all its residents.
- Require masks
- this is above my pay grade

- Keep doing what you are doing.
- Be forthcoming with information regarding g availability and distribution of the vaccine. E. Prov. did pretty good this time. Would have appreciated more updates in between announcing g registration and notification of time to sign up.
- Improved communication around testing, vaccines, a footprint in either of those. We don't see anything happening - zero communication that we've seen. Rules around social distancing and masks not being enforced in places of businesses (i.e. grocery stores) or practiced by municipal employees -- police, public works, etc. When I have an interaction w/ a police officer, I shouldn't have to ask THEM to put a mask on. They shouldn't have to go back to their cruiser to get one.
- Allow more than one person per day to use library computer and change time allotment from 30 to 60 minutes
- I am in the medical field and am mostly in Providence and have dealt with the COVID issues mostly on a state level but I have not heard anything from East Providence about vaccine, possible availability of PPI supplies or anything else regarding the health issue. Perhaps we need a better way to communicate with residents
- look out for our elderly and children (more social services) to help with emotional issues due to isolation etc. get creative bring in beauty (visually) in our city with arts and music.
- There's no guidebook so I don't think it's fair to say you were excellent or poor in handling the situation. This is hard. And completely new ground. I would love a better understanding of when my family will qualify to get vaccinated, where can we in EP if at all, get vaccinated, and if there's way to help if we are able, for example masks in the beginning and making masks, donating food to food pantries (where and who needs what). It's a community. I'd love to see more behavior that supports and lifts each other up in times of need.
- I think it took the city more time than hoped to hit the ground running with a response. I think this was in large part initially out of the city's control and the state and federal administrations bear much of that responsibility. The city did a great job once it figured out how it could best address the needs of its residents, and I hope this institutional memory will aid in future pandemics -- faster outreach, better awareness of where holes in social services are, quicker support for small businesses, etc.
- Stop closing everything, but I will give credit to in person schooling and understand state restrictions.
- I am satisfied.
- Enforce the policies, I see so many companies say they require a mask for you to be there but I see people either not wearing it or wearing it incorrectly and no one does anything about it. Very discouraging for people who do follow directions
- centralized information
- Better (any!) communication to residents.
- Be open and available
- I'm not aware of the City's health services. What department oversees the public health services? EPCAP? -- At the very least, this is a communication issue. Seems everything is out of the Mayor's Office, which makes it confusing to seek any further information.
- Maybe more outreach by mail
- I am a teacher and would like to be considered for vaccination, along with the elderly, who are first in line and I believe should come before teachers.
- Make sure our seniors are safe. More communication.
- Better communication with residents. Maybe mailers is the best way.
- Create pathways for interested parties to volunteer/connect with residents and other community members. (Covid safe, of course.) For instance, host a place where folks (such as myself) could volunteer to call a senior citizen or a person living alone during the pandemic to check in and make sure they have everything they need.
- Keep calm and use science to explain Offer testing and vaccinating to those who cannot get to larger sites
- The state needs a single unified website fir vaccination appointments.



- Get Teachers Vaccinated !! Help Seniors to get Vaccinations. Develop Volunteers to help seniors with Transport and assistance to live; independently
- I have no idea how the City is handling the pandemic - I watched Council meetings and that's how I kept up. I haven't seen any meetings, don't know why the room is big enough
- I like the idea of a registry, and the city will then call when it's ready for you, by age
- no opinion
- I have no idea, but I am sure that you learned a lot from this one. Maybe, keep more businesses (restaurants and bars) open and allow owners to stay open and customers decide to attend - I don't know if this is possible, but maybe when the infection numbers are low
- Get the vaccine flowing faster!
- pandemic is NOT a pandemic. over reaction and KIDS SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL FULL TIME all the time. covid is an overblown FLU
- Be more transparent with city board and commission meetings.\
- Good job so far -- nothing to add here.
- not sure, does the city offer rides for folks unable to get to vaccination sites?
- More help by city and sponsoring volunteering for seniors, Assisted living facilities and nursing homes. The state of RI has failed our seniors.
- Be ready. I am 78 with compromising medical conditions and have not been able to get an appointment for the vaccine. I registered at city hall weeks ago. Useless.
- Secure vaccines for distribution.
- Design an emergency communications system that will leave a message. Constant repeated calls are annoying. Just leave a message.
- Communication and follow thru
- add more individual health related information to vaccine registration to help best determine who to prioritize when doses are in limited supply.
- Keep people informed of all options available to them
- By continuing to keep the public informed as to where to get vaccinations and what aspects about the Pandemic are most affecting the City at any given time.
- no comment
- I think things went well all told. The vaccine problems don't appear to be EP controlled. I do think that teachers/ school personnel need to be vaccinated ASAP.
- Education of the FACTS! Reinforce SCIENCE
- Get the vaccines available.
- Just keep getting the info out there
- More than one vaccination site
- Increase the Dissemination of info(more ways )
- More neighborhood test/vaccine sites
- more communication via mailings. setup an email list for information posts that residents can join
- Keeping the public informed as much as possible.
- Have clinics for vaccines
- Ask the people for there input
- City sites for receiving vaccine.
- The city should have had a mask mandate and actually enforced it. Requiring employers to remove customers who refuse. Even have police forcibly remove them.
- I believe East Providence has done well, could be the people, but I'm proud of my EP neighbors.
- Have more available resources



- If the eminent domain of Metacomet goes through, have the KMG folks run it since they are all Green space experts.
- Stop closing the city buildings down and not serving residents. Many businesses have remained open and been able to serve their customers. I feel the current city administration has used the pandemic to keep the residents away from city hall and other city owned buildings.
- Control what it can and keep citizens informed of any and all updates.
- Vaccines! In East Providence!
- We ended up with a lot of dead seniors because of the abysmal response by the city and state in getting infected seniors out of places where they would expose other seniors and staff.
- I think the city did as much as it could.
- Not close we know what to do and what the recommendations .Closure are a death sentence to small business.
- Vaccinate 65+ immediately.
- Work with state to get all of us vaccinated. Start with oldest and work down.
- Really not sure, as not even the Federal Government has offered any guidance for the past 14 months. Make mask wearing in public MANDATORY.
- Work with the state on a centralized way to sign up for the vaccine, and add locations in EP to get the shot(s).
- clinics for vaccinating elderly sooner
- Better plan for seniors and the most vulnerable.
- Give out more vaccinations each week. Provide transportation to the vaccine sites. Offer the vaccines at public housing in Rumford, Goldsmith Avenue and Pawtucket Avenue in Riverside.
- had to go to other cities, and vaccine should be done age priority not people being called
- Not spend money on unnecessary purchases in uncertain economic times by getting involved with the Metacomet Country Club issue. In good times it could be considered, however, the city spending a large amount of money on an investment with little, no or negative return is irresponsible.
- Prioritize vaccination by frailty of population.
- Provide more detailed public information.
- no opinion
- Vaccine distribution could be improved.
- Follow the plan in place in Lincoln. They are way ahead of the rest of the cities and towns offering 5 day a week vaccines at local country club (Kirkbray) . All special groups have been vaccinated and they are currently open to anyone who wants some in town. Meanwhile, my 96 year old uncle has not been. Offered a vaccine until this week and his caregiver IS NOT able to be vaccinated.
- Decent job
- I don't think there is much the city can do until the federal government provides more vaccine doses.
- More public messaging on what works.
- unsure... what was missing was federal coordination and leadership
- Keep the vaccines coming!
- All you can really do is get more vaccines. I wish you the best of luck.
- More sites for vaccine and promote awareness of vaccinations
- City need not get involved except to push State/Fed/WHO to plan and execute better. CVS/Walgreens will do it better.
- Fees for online payments should go away if city hall is closed. Small businesses have to eat the costs of online payments but it's more convenient for customers, so it's a justified cost.
- Do not rely on social media, improve the website. Model the library which has a great email and outreach
- Create a central database and dedicated phone line.
- keep library services strong

- The East Providence Police have set a poor example for the community. They go maskless 95% of the time without any type of consequence. Any LEO that refuses to wear a mask while interacting with the public should be suspended immediately. The other departments in the city are only doing marginally better. I regularly see parks employees congregating maskless.
- Investing in green infrastructure, pedestrian/bikeways, and agri-business/ farmers markets are all key to slowing climate and preventing these kinds of issues, as well as the food insecurity that comes with them.
- Protect local business owners who stimulate the local economy, and provide happiness to residents
- continue to provide vaccine information
- I think EP did great.
- Vaccination rollout
- Use pharmacy or other public locations to offer vaccine - why does it take so long to get this in the arms of people and thereby end this pandemic? Shouldn't it be 24/7 for vaccination clinics, around the clock?; use schools or other big/vacant properties to offer testing (I saw some set up such as at the Senior Center and EBCAP but didn't see them in use)
- Encouraging a healthier lifestyle
- Enforce the mask mandate.
- Act faster but I guess it all depends on supply of vaccines, etc
- Access to vaccines quicker.
- STOP PANICKING THE ELDERLY. LET BUSINESSES REOPEN.
- Better community messaging.
- Keep city facilities open with correct protocol
- Better organization
- Open library. It is shameful you locked residents out. Offer testing sites. There are not enough. Open city hall. Stop using covid as an excuse for poor customer service.
- GET ORGANIZED and have a clear plan and communicate it so it is clear and effective. I've registered for the virus, am in my 80's and have not been called to make an appointment for the vaccine.
- Give out masks, be set up to administer vaccines, have a better way to communicate effectively with residents.
- Continue to communicate. The code red is great
- Better communication to people who aren't on social media
- Be clear on when and where we can get vaccinated since it seems the state is leaving it all up to the municipalities.
- better coordination and distribution
- vaccine Site- however its more of a state problem and the city getting information - maybe more e mail blasts
- Set up vaccinating clinics immediately
- The city has done little-to-nothing during the pandemic other than share statewide recommendations. I cannot imagine the bar being set lower than it currently is at. At least they've haven't spread misinformation. Active outright to the small business community would have been helpful. Not only is there no outreach, but when the business community asks for a forum there is no response.

# East Providence Comprehensive Plan Update

## Youth/Teen Survey Summary

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An online teen/youth survey was available from June 2021 through July 2021. It was promoted through the City’s website and Comprehensive Planning page, the City’s local schools, and local youth programs. Paper copies could be requested from the Planning and Economic Development Department.

A total of 24 people took the survey, however not all responded to every question. Below is a summary of responses. Comments provided in open-ended questions are detailed in the attachment to this summary.

## Survey Responses

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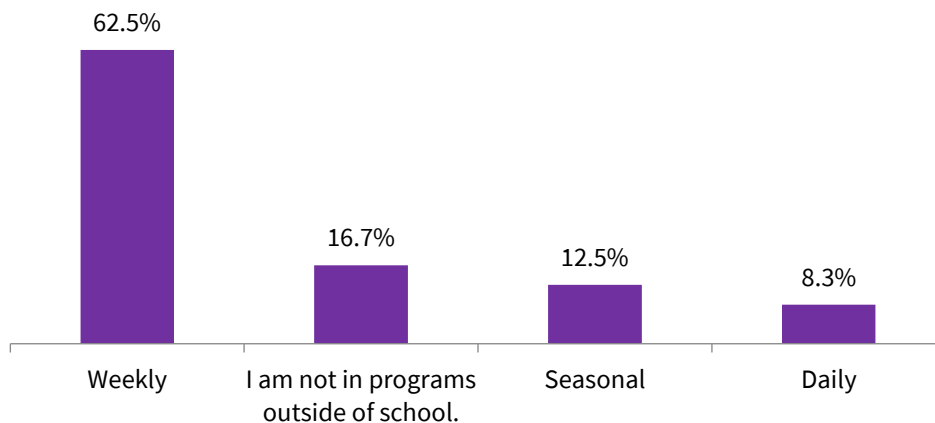
What programs outside of school are you active in (i.e., sports, enrichment, camps)? (23 responded)

Respondents mentioned the following programs that they are active in outside of school:

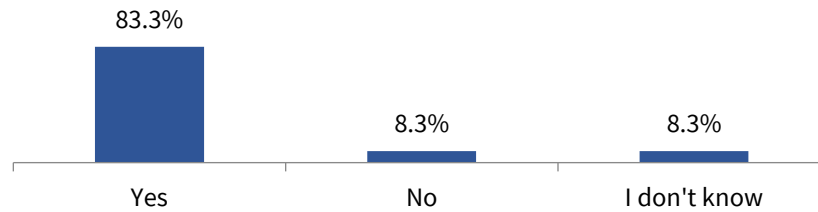
- Scouts (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, etc.)
- After school programs/camps/clubs (YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, ECC, etc.)
- Local jobs/babysitting
- Music lessons (Piano, guitar, etc.)
- Dance lessons/classes
- Meet ups/events
- Sports (Softball, baseball, cross country, track, soccer, basketball, karate, etc.)
- Volunteering
- Church

Some respondents wrote that they do not participate in any programs or activities outside of school.

How often do you attend these programs outside of school? (24 responded)



Is there a park in your neighborhood? (24 responded)



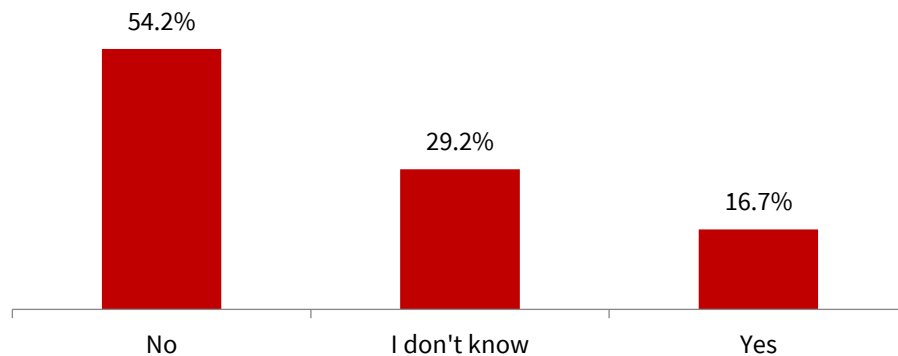
If yes, what do you do at your neighborhood park? Are you able to walk, bike, or skate to the park? Do you feel safe in the park? (23 responded)

Respondents said at their neighborhood park they hang out or play with friends, use the playground, skateboard, roller skate, run, walk, and play sports like baseball and basketball. Most respondents mentioned that they either walk, scooter, bike, or skate to the park. A few respondents said they drive to parks in other parts of East Providence that have more amenities. Most respondents said that they feel safe at their neighborhood park but a few did mention that they did not feel safe getting to some parks (i.e. Grassy Plains Park) due to heavy traffic around the area.

What would you like to see more of at your neighborhood parks or other parks in East Providence? (23 responded)

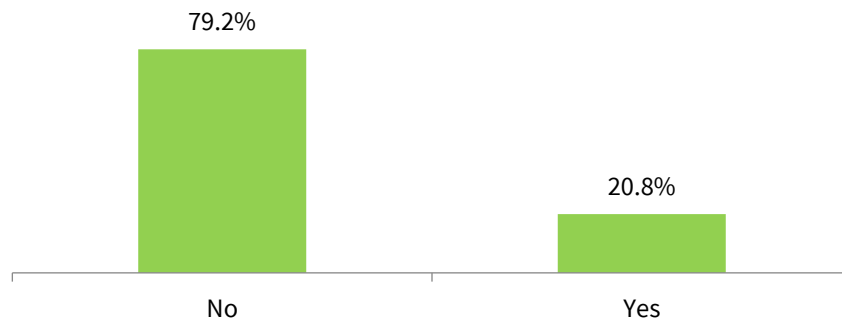
Respondents said that they would like to see more spaces for community gatherings or community/youth events. They also said they would like to have more play equipment like playgrounds, swing sets, zip lines, monkey bars or pull up bars, climbing walls, and 'ninja warrior'-like play spaces. Other respondents mentioned having a community skate park, pools/splash pads, and more recreation spaces for sports like softball. Many respondents mentioned the need to have more trash and recycling containers, murals, places to sit, water fountains, and vending machines. Other suggestions included: firetrucks, face painting, and pony rides.

Are there any areas in your neighborhood that you have been told are not safe? (24 responded)



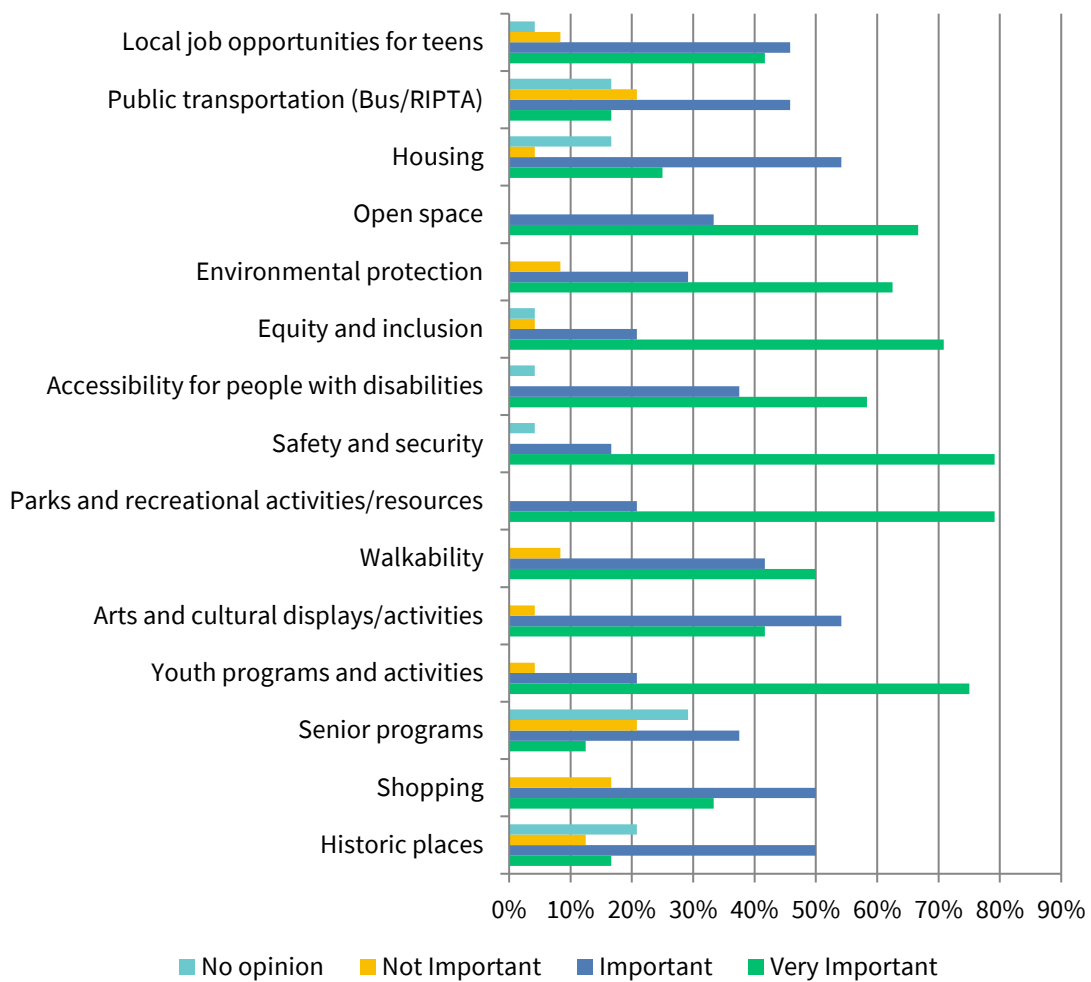
Responses to yes include the railroad tracks, a path to a field that is not well lit, walking around neighborhood alone, and some parks (none specifically mentioned).

Would you like to live elsewhere in East Providence? (24 responded)

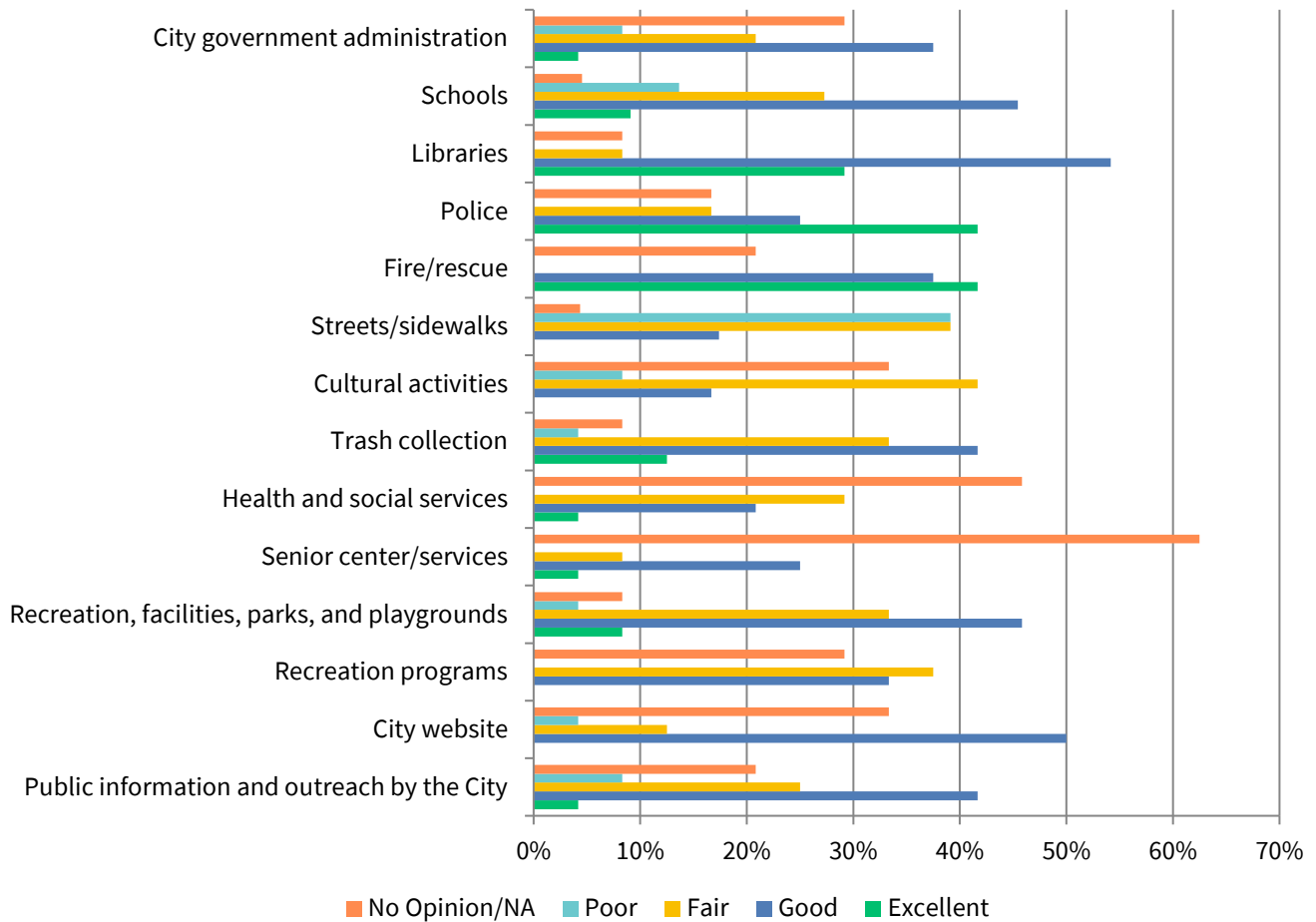


Responses to yes included being in an area closer to the woods, Kent Height, Riverside, and places that are less noisy/have less traffic.

How important are the following to the quality of youth/teen life in East Providence? (24 responded)



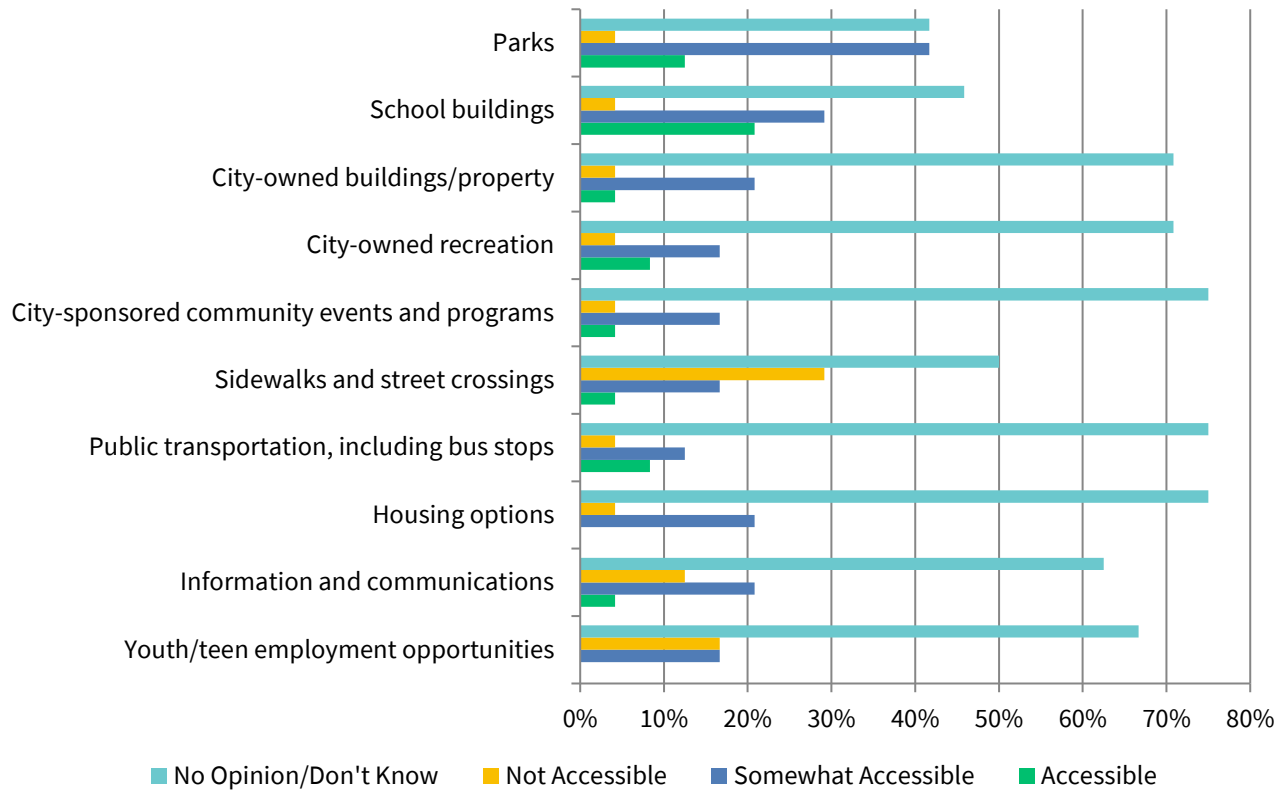
Rate the following public services in East Providence. (24 responded)



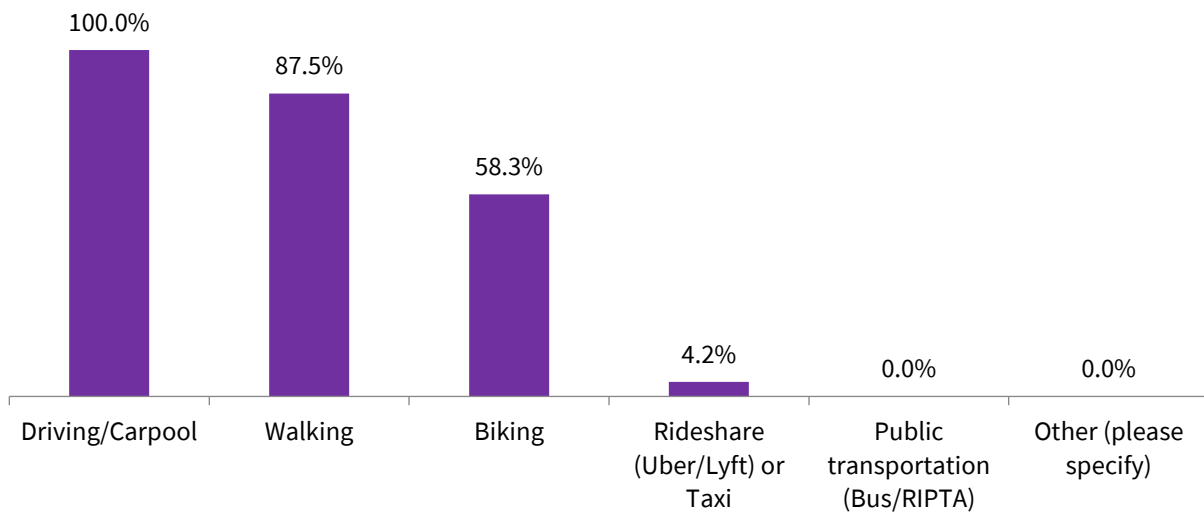
Of those not listed in Question 15, are there programs, services, or activities you would like to see added in East Providence? What are they? (17 responded)

Respondents mentioned the need for more art programs, park days or parades, sailing programs for youth/teens, youth sports, water features like pools/splash pads, etc. Another respondent mentioned having a designated place to ride dirt bikes or mopeds. Other responses called for more teen programs and activities in general or have a sports/community center for teens to go to and hang out.

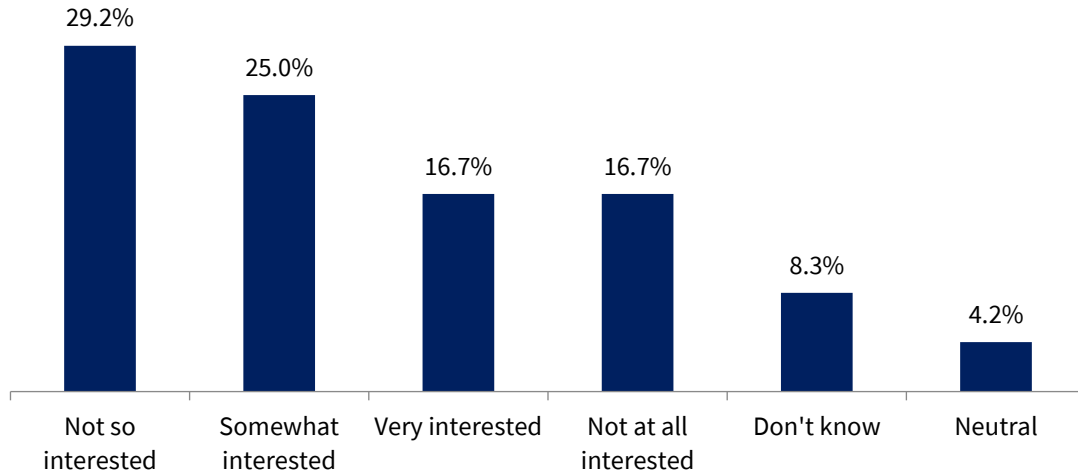
For people with disabilities, how accessible are the following in East Providence? (24 responded)



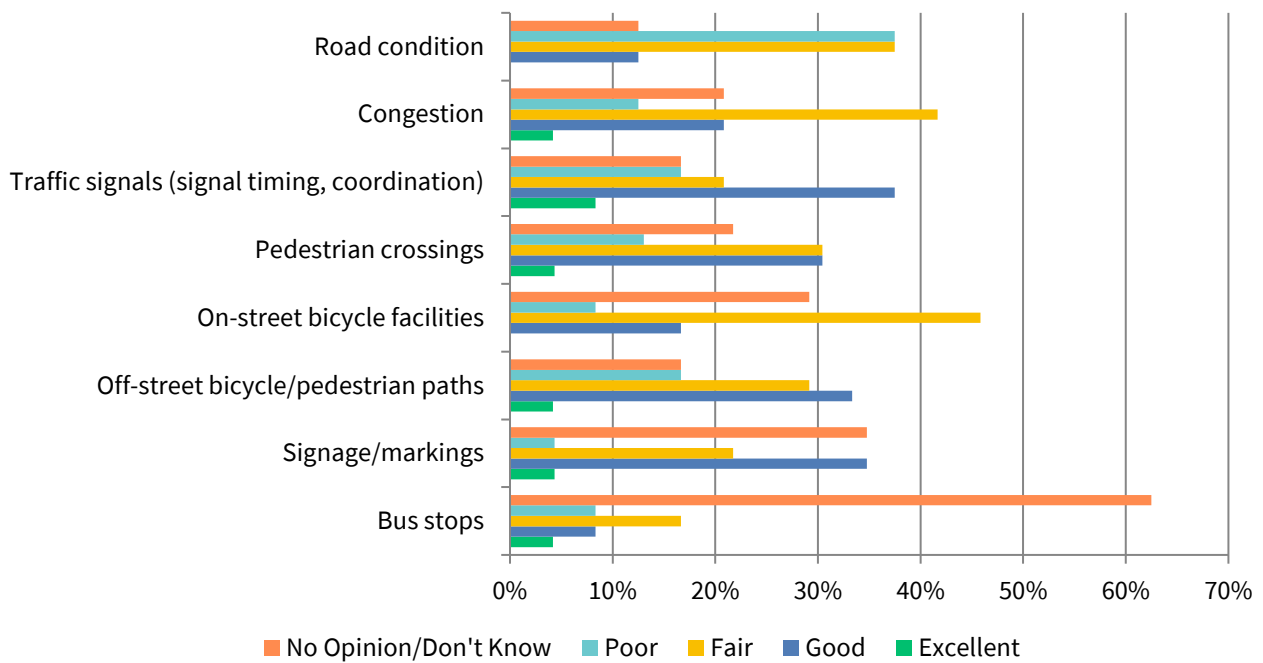
What ways do you get around East Providence? Check all that apply. (24 responded)



Are you interested in using or riding in new transportation technologies (e-bike, electric car, self-driving cars or buses)? (24 responded)



Based on how you get around East Providence, please rate the conditions of each transportation-related item. (24 responded)

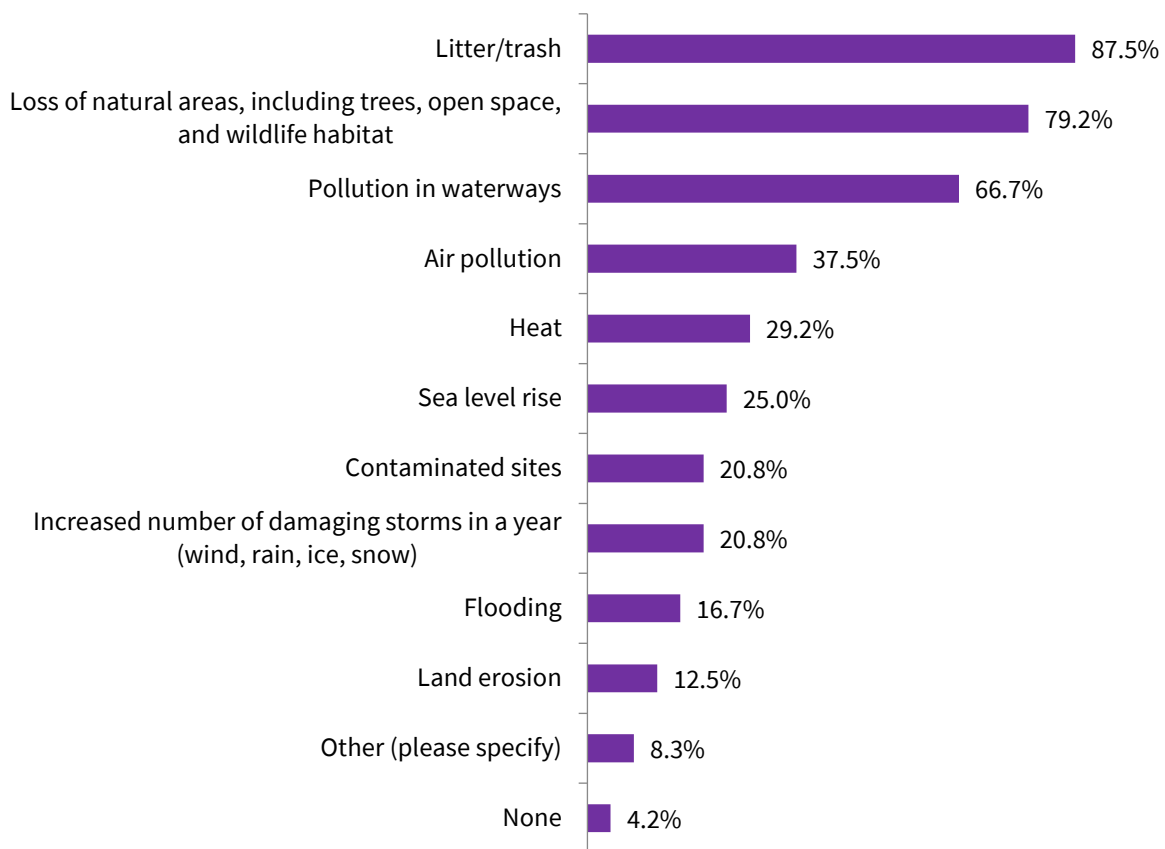




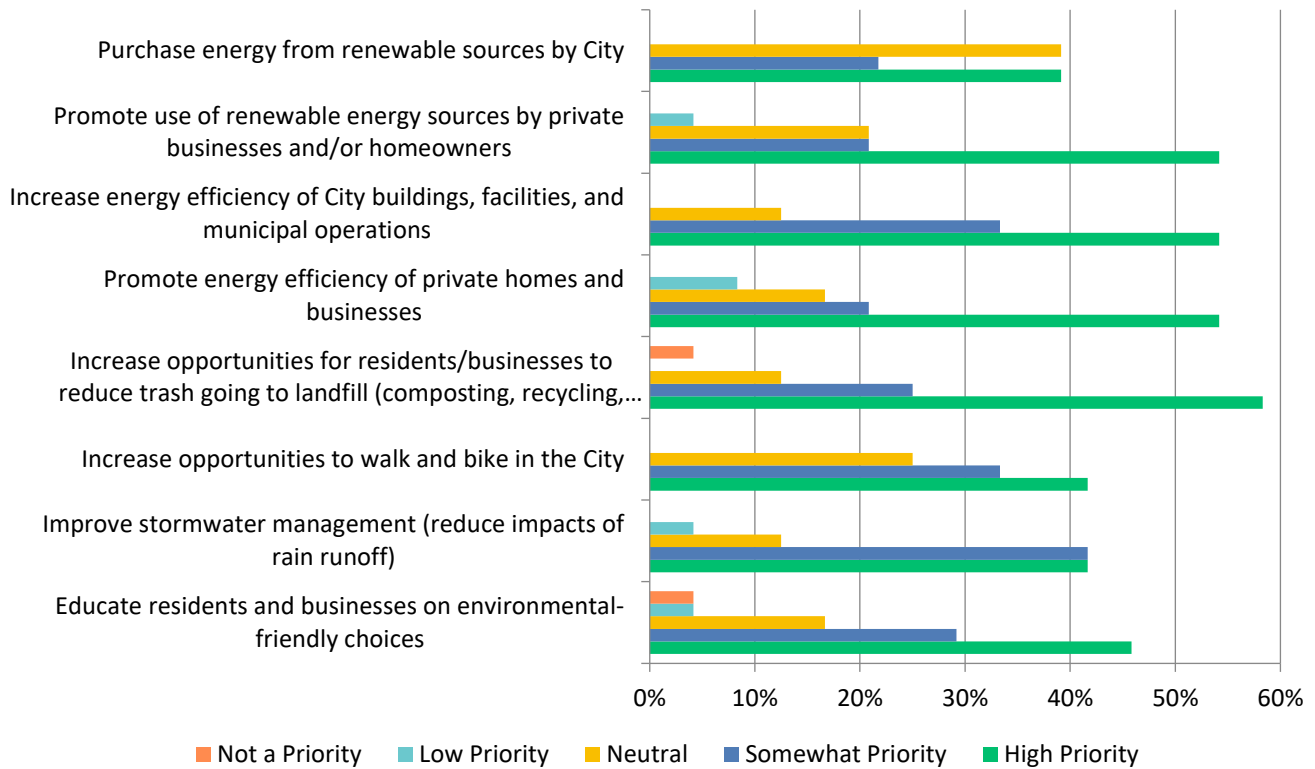
### What kinds of job opportunities do you want to see for youth/teens? Seasonal jobs? After school jobs? In what industry? Where? (18 responded)

Respondents mentioned that they would like to see more seasonal and after school jobs for youth and teens. Types of jobs mentioned include farming, working with seniors, ice cream shops, babysitting, dog walking, yard work, camp counselors, lifeguards, internships, mentorships, caretakers, other businesses in the City, etc. One respondent mentioned it would be important to have jobs that are easily accessible by walking or biking and making sure job opportunities are spread out throughout East Providence’s different neighborhoods. Another respondent mentioned having jobs that pay well and do not over work teen/youth employees. And some respondents said they were a little too young to be thinking about jobs.

### What environmental issues are a concern for you in East Providence? Check all that apply. (24 responded)



What actions should be a priority for East Providence to address environmental issues? (24 responded)



Why is East Providence a great place to grow up in? Are there places you like to go or things you like to do? Do you think these things need to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy? (20 responded)

Respondents had a lot of complimentary things to say about growing up in East Providence. Respondents said that they love the sense of community and their neighbors in East Providence. Respondents also mentioned the importance of growing up in a place that is close to nature and has plenty of open space. Other responses included loving the fireworks at Pierce Field, the Carousel, Turner Reservoir, Kent Field, the bike paths, Crescent Park, and Grassy Plains Park.

What do you not like about living in East Providence? What could be done to make it better and more fun? (18 responded)

To make East Providence better, respondents mentioned the need for more updates to park equipment and sports fields, the addition of a community pool, more youth programs and activities, more entertainment venues like movie theaters, additional community events, and places where youth/teens can hang out. Other respondents also mentioned that there is a lot of traffic, noise, and congestion throughout East Providence and trying to find ways to mitigate that would help make the City a better place to live.

What is happening in other towns or cities that you have visited and would like to see happening in East Providence? (19 responded)

Things that other towns are doing that respondents think could be good for East Providence include:

- Events/festivals: food trucks, carnivals, arts, cultural, religious
- Kids Day
- Community gardens
- Playground that has a ropes/obstacle course (i.e., Barrington)
- Community pool/Community center
- Youth advocacy
- Pride/LGBTQ+ events
- Diverse shopping options (not big box stores)

If you were gone for 20 years and returned to East Providence, what would you like to see? (20 responded)

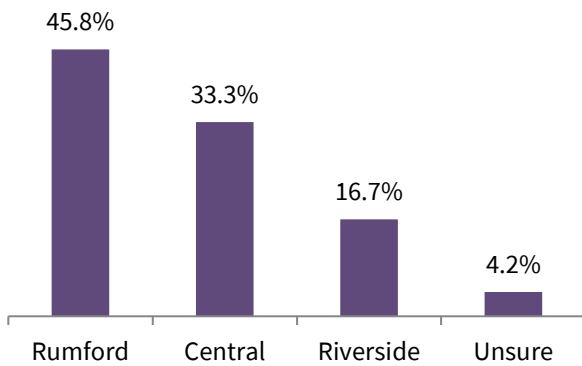
Respondents had many things to say about what they would like to see in East Providence in 20 years. Responses include:

- Murals and art displays
- Environmental and open space protection
- Clean/renewable energy
- Updated roadway, pedestrian, and bike infrastructure
- More places to gather with friends in family (i.e. India Point Park, floating restaurants/docks)
- Community/East Providence pride

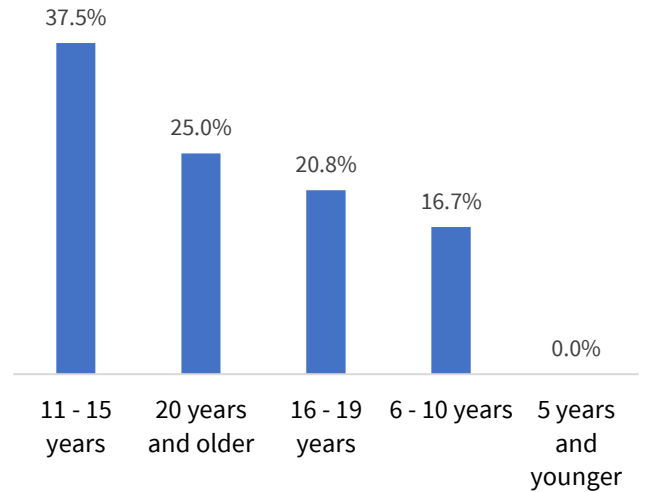
## Who Took the Survey

Youth respondents were asked to provide information about themselves. This helps understand parts of the community we are reaching and where we need to reach in other ways. While this survey was meant for teens and youth in East Providence to take, some adults did take this survey.

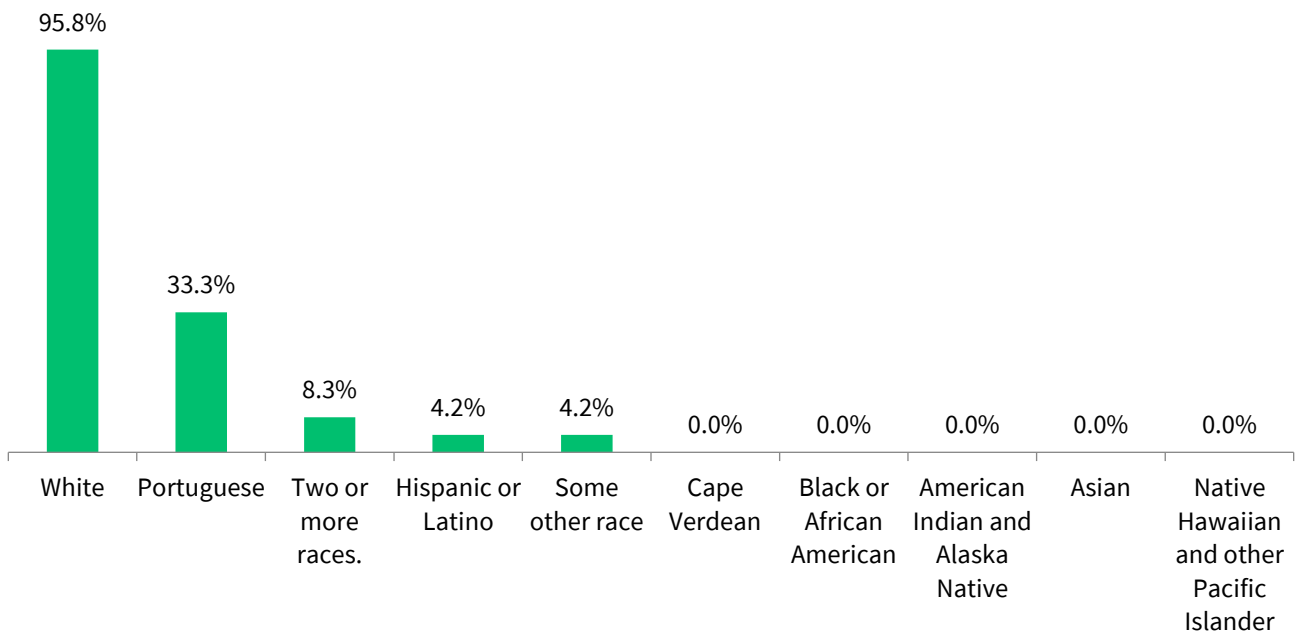
In which part of East Providence do you currently reside? (24 responded)



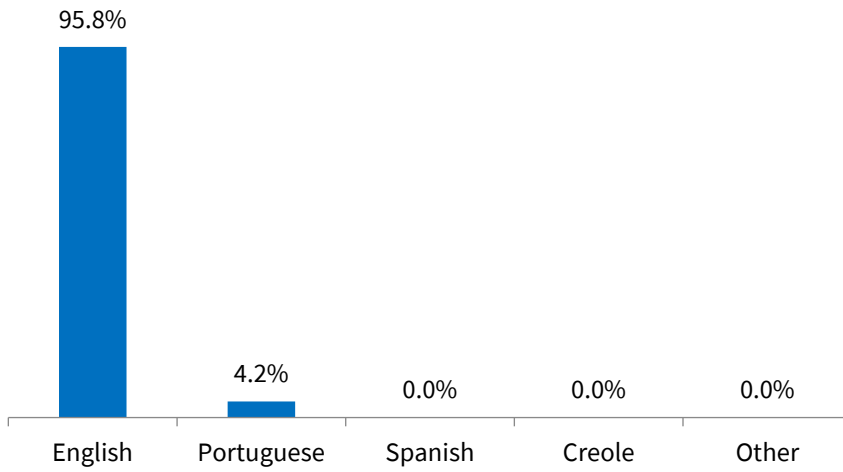
What is your age? (24 responded)



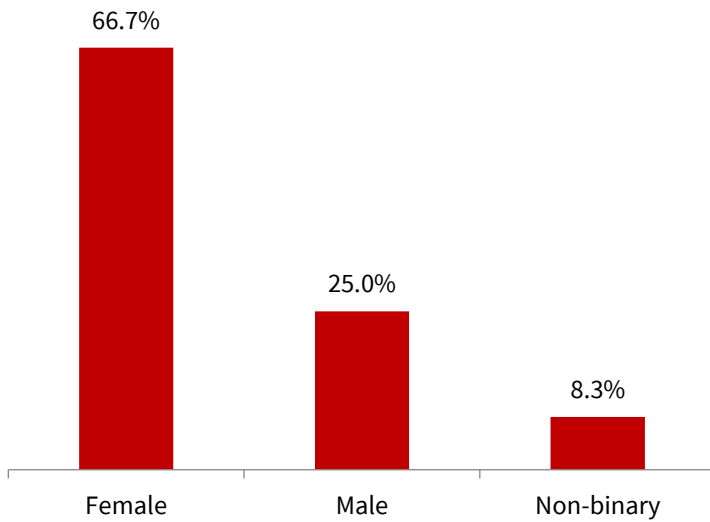
Which of the following best describes you? Check all that apply. (24 responded)



What is the primary language spoken in your home? (24 responded)



What is your gender? (24 responded)



## East Providence Comprehensive Plan Update Youth/Teen Survey Summary Attachment

The following lists comments received to open-ended questions of the youth/teen survey. Responses are unedited and presented as they were provided.

What programs outside of school are you active in (i.e. sports, enrichment, camps)?

- ECC camp, babysitting, softball
- Cross country, track, art club
- None
- Karate and piano
- Job at Dunkin' Donuts, dance classes, community service at Evergreen Nursing Home, church related activities at St. Martha's Church
- Playdates, park meet ups, library events
- Baseball
- guitar
- Girl scouts
- Cub Scouts and Baseball
- Piano lessons
- Dance
- Boys and Girls Club
- Scouts BSA
- Paid farm internship
- Soccer, basketball,
- Baseball
- YMCA Camp
- soccer, girl scouts
- Camp
- None any more
- None
- Scouting

If yes, what do you do at your neighborhood park? Are you able to walk, bike, or skate to the park? Do you feel safe in the park?

- I hang out with my friends, I am able to walk, skate or bike to the park. I sometimes feel safe at the park.
- N/A
- Silver Spring School. Yes I feel safe.
- I am able to walk, but we take a car. I scooter, bike, play on the playground and sometimes skateboard. Yes, I feel safe.
- The park closest to my house would be Central. I don't go there because I do not feel safe there. If I choose to go to a park, I will always go to Kent Field.
- Play, can't walk there on my own yet, some times it smells like a skunk, my mom says it's not good.
- Pierce. Run. Baseball, watch younger sister play.

- skate, swing play basketball, walk. I do feel safe
- There's a park in my neighborhood, but the infrastructure in Riverside is not very pedestrian-friendly. You often have to cross the street at inopportune times, the sidewalks are all destroyed, and most of the time the sidewalks are covered in rubble from lack of upkeep. All in all, I almost never consider skating to the park because of it.
- Bike. I feel safe sometimes at the park
- We use the Wolf School Park and can walk or ride our bike. We also use the Bike Path at Kimberly Rock.
- Ride bikes
- There is a playground it's old and it floods a lot. It's boring and needs more fun things. There is lot of space but nothing fun.
- walk, yes I feel safe
- It is small, so we can mostly just walk, sit, and talk. There is a playground further down the road with a basketball court though! I have never felt unsafe there.
- I'm able to walk and bike, they have a basic playground and a basketball court. I feel safe there
- Yes all of the above
- Skate board, play basketball and hang out
- Have to drive because Grassy Plains is not safe to walk with my toddler. (Grassy Plains Park)
- Walk, bike.
- I live on the Grassy Plains Park and it's wonderful to see it being maintained, as for many years it was neglected by this City. To see the kids do there is wonderful, BUT it has to remain Free Play as it was agreed to and the grant was written for...No organized sports. The neighborhood is not able to accommodate an influx of cars....kids will get hit by those cars. And the lack of communication of the mayor's part is disgusting, disrespectful and heavy handed.
- I said I don't know
- I walk there, I feel safe, but it's not particularly great.

### What would you like to see more of at your neighborhood parks and other parks in East Providence?

- I don't know
- Murals
- Garbage cans, the amount of trash i pick up is awful.
- Kent Field needs more swing sets and equipment, especially for younger kids.
- Fresh grass and landscaping is needed in several parks. Maybe some more community events in the summer too! The litter and bottles of alcohol aren't safe for the children in our community to be around.
- Fire trucks, face painting, pony rides!
- Working score board and score keeper at more games on big field. Less crazy drivers when the parkway backs up.
- I don't know
- I think that Riverside could use a skate park. Personally, I would love to be able to go skating in my neighborhood, and there's a lot of land at the recreational center that could be used for that. If there was at least a small skate park, I'm sure it would be money well invested.
- Monkey bars and pull up bars
- Softball for girls
- Pool
- Fun things better playground zip line climbing things ninja stuff. No floods at playground Water parks

- ninja warrior obstacles basketball court tunnel slide
- Public events/gatherings for teens/etc.
- Maybe some sort of water feature, or less rusty equipment, but I'm pretty much satisfied
- Activities for the youth
- Water fountain or vending machines. Places to sit and trash/recycling cans
- Youth center instead of having to rely on the YMCA or other centers.
- pools & splash pads
- To be left as Free Play, no organized sports ever, and to have more equipment for the kids to play. Expand the basketball court as it the most used thing, right now at that playground. The mayor had it cut in half for bike ramps, and that was a result of no research. It was way undersized and it was taken out. Its really big at 14 acres, so make a dog park area, separate from the kids play. Also to make room for his planned soccer fields, the mayor had the baseball back stop cut down and the metal bench torn out and thrown away. Replace the items he so hastily threw out. I think by the numbers would help here. #1 No organized sports-ever #2 Make more and enlarge the basket ball courts to accommodate the kids who use it all the time. #3 Add more equipment for the kids to play on #4 make a designated area a dog park and keep it away from where the kids play. #5 the inground rink for hockey and ice skating in the window needs to be brought back to where it was before the City took out the plugs. Maybe a bocci court would be great for us older folks. Add more benches and maybe some tables to have lunch there for a nice family outing.
- I don't know
- Playground equipment, community gardens.

If yes (do you feel unsafe anywhere in your community), please describe:

- The park
- My parents have told me not to walk around our neighborhood on walks alone.
- the railroad tracks
- there's a path to a field that's dark and could be considered dangerous and i don't like to go back there.

If yes (is there somewhere else you'd like to live in East Providence), where and why?

- I like the woods, not the city
- Somewhere in the Kent Heights area or Riverside (Waddington) areas are ideal neighborhoods. Of course Rumford as well. All safe and well kept.
- Some place a bit more quiet.
- Some where less noisy and less traffic
- Riverside. I have family who lives there

Of those not listed in Question 15, are there programs, services, or activities you would like to see added in East Providence? What are they?

- No opinion
- More art programs
- More park days or parades.
- East Providence could really use just some cleaning up. Especially around the sidewalks where people will litter. Some things like that do not cost a lot of money, just appreciation for what we have.



- Keep the parades down centre street going please!
- Learn to sail program for teens.
- I don't know
- Nothing
- More youth sports
- A pool
- affordable programs of all ages
- More teen events/activities. I feel like post-covid and post virtual learning there should be more opportunities in the city for teens to make new friends.
- Just continuations of cultural/minority's celebrations and education
- A place to ride dirty bikes or unlicensed vehicles (mopeds 4wheelers)
- Youth programs that keep kids off of motocross motorcycles and police officers actually enforcing the confiscation of them for improper use.
- more teen programs - sports/community center for teens to go
- No

What kinds of job opportunities do you want to see for youth/teens? Seasonal jobs? After school jobs? In what industry? Where?

- I want to see more after-school jobs for teens, like farming, working with seniors, and being in different environments to help better understand what we wanna do as a career path.
- N/A
- Seasonal jobs
- Employers in the community need to do a better job of following child labor laws. I know of many businesses where students are being over worked and a lot of times without breaks.
- I'm 8
- More things like the fire and police academy.
- Places that would be easy to get to on a bike or by walking. Places like Dunkin' donuts, Town Pizza, etc.
- Working at an Ice cream shop. Babysitting, dog walking, yard work
- Seasonal, camp, lifeguard
- I would love after school or season jobs in the Rumford area. Industry does not matter to me.
- I think seasonal jobs for the summer would be good, and I think after school jobs would also be good. I'm not sure what industry, but I am biased towards small farms.
- All
- Something that pays more than \$15 an hour
- Seasonal and after school, internships and mentorships.
- i think more jobs as caretakers would be good because they teach responsibility.
- I'd like to see more kids cutting lawns, shoveling snow, raking leaves and being more interested in earning a few bucks than playing games on their computer and expecting money to fall from the sky
- None
- Whatever we can attract to EP. I'd like to see all the retail space around city hall put to use, and all the property along the river.

Why is East Providence a great place to grow up in? Are there places you like to go or things you like to do? Do you think these things need to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy?

- There are many people willing to teach things they have learned over the years to the youth.
- N/A
- I love our city. One of my favorite things is driving down the parkway and looking at beautiful Metacomet landscape. I also went sledding there and took my children sledding there.
- The Carousel, Turner Reservoir Loop, Kent Field, Pierce Field (fireworks), The Bike Path, Skyzone, Feasts
- The community is what makes East Providence a nice place to grow up. Never get rid of the students' music and art programs! Also, the fireworks and events at Pierce Field are always something I have looked forward to.
- I like my neighborhood, my neighbors are nice. People drive fast down my street. I live on Centre st.
- I like being on the diamond playing baseball for EP teams. I like being out in nature. Keep the green areas green and make roads and sidewalk better.
- East Providence is a fairly small place with tons of things to do, like go on walks, bike rides, and going to parks with friends.
- I think East Providence is a great place to grow up in you can meet some great people who can really change your life, so many kind people. I like to go back to the carousel in riverside think that people should work together to restore it! I think EP should start protecting wildlife and waterfront's...
- Ten Mile River Bike Path and Hunts Mills are very important and should continue to be a focal point of the city.
- When I was small we could go to the pool at EPHS. We need another.
- More fun things for kids. Better playgrounds Kent heights
- I like to go to the park, can we have a water bottle filling station like a water fountain
- I think East Providence is great. Easy access to the downtown area, plenty of parks, lots of restaurants around, easy to walk around, and small businesses. I do think our city needs to be preserved.
- Preserve the riverside carousel!
- I love going up to answer because there's a lot of open space to do outside activities the temperature is cooler that air is cleaner and fresh and has to do with being in nature.
- Grassy plains park, Easy Bay bike path, Crescent Park,
- i think within the schools there's a sense of community. not in the city but mr. black has made martin a really good school to go to and i really appreciate that. i think it's important to maintain that sense of community and spread it to other aspects of the city. as well, i think it's really important to protect sports programs (i'd also like to see more affordable sports programs created for teens, as it is so difficult to access sports in the first place) because sports teach incredibly valuable life skills and they've been really important to me growing up. i'd love for other, future youth to have the same opportunities.
- We need to stop being as postage stamp city. The mayor and his flunkies will approve zoning to build on a postage stamp size plot. That has to stop. He needs to be sat down and have the ramifications of his ill conceived plans on our schools, police and fire etc. He has no clue and it seems no one will speak truth to power.....sic
- I don't know

What do you not like about living in East Providence? What could be done to make it better and more fun?

- no opinion
- N/A
- Its becoming so overly developed. Traffic is awful. Coming out of Riverside is a nightmare. I have almost been in an accident 3x near Kettle Point. I am often stuck in traffic for over 20 min just trying to get to 95
- Needs more amusement attractions
- Roads back up a lot near my house on Second street when the parkway backs up. Would be nice if parkway was less busy but it keeps getting more busy.
- I don't know
- I like how everyone is friendly and I think we need different playgrounds in east providence think we should have playgrounds that have rope courses and fun obstacles
- Lack of softball and updated park equipment
- Add a pool. Bring back playground camps & activities
- More things for kids inside and outside
- people litter too much, we can add more trash cans
- More shopping (mall, strip mall, etc.). Movie theater?
- More community events like concerts and childrens activities
- Stop over developing so that it's not overpopulated so it's safer for kids to be playing in the street and riding our bikes in the street
- Too many rental apartments. Flight path and noise, closed businesses, speed limit on residential streets is too high 25, should be 15. Children's and stops signs are faded. No access to a recycling center like Johnston.
- there's no parks anywhere. i have nowhere to hang out with my friends without it being difficult to find a place to go.
- I hate the mayoral form of government and what it's doing to our city and the repercussions of his agenda. I'd like to see more being done as far as bands/concerts and Piece Field and Rose Larisa Park, The Heritage Festival is a great venue,
- I don't know

What is happening in other towns or cities that you have visited and would like to see happening in East Providence?

- Cultural and religious activities
- Food trucks events, artist festival
- More open space. The pandemic has brought so many people outside. Online shopping and delivery apps have made it so people don't shop in stores. Please save open space.
- Nicer atmosphere
- Kids day! With lots of fun stuff!
- Maybe a community garden.
- I don't know
- For example, Barrington has a new playground with a rope course and a bunch of fun obstical courses
- Playground at the Rock
- A community pool
- Better playgrounds, climbing and ninja

- other holiday parades
- Pride events, youth advocacy, etc.
- N/a
- I don't know, Fun community activities like carnivals food trucks, a public dock that's not rotting
- More shopping options. We have no big box stores in East Providence. Lack of gyms. More diverse cuisine.
- i think there should be an affordable solar option for the city. i also really think there should be a community center or something for teens
- I drove by Barrington Middle School and there were 4 basketball courts all in a row and there were kids playing basket ball on all of them..We don't have that here...why not? Barrington has in-ground sprinkler systems on all their fields ..we don't....why not? Maintenance is a big problem in EP on EVERYTHING.....why??? Across from their High School there are multiple tennis courts and there are always people, of all ages, playing. AT GP one of our tennis courts was turned in to a parking lot....and they filled in wet lands to do it too...illegal
- I don't know

If you were gone for 20 years and returned to East Providence, what would you like to see?

- Better control over the environment and clean energy
- Murals
- A cleaner and greener town!
- A lot more solar panels on houses and cleaner water and more wildlife.
- Same community, cleaner and safer parts of the city
- Lots of kids playing in the streets!
- Less construction. Smoother roads and walkways. Middle schools updated like high school. Maybe a public golf course instead of a private one or development at Metacommet.
- I don't know
- Much of riverside is unused due to large corporations taking up large amounts of territory. For the past 19 years that I have lived here, Bank of America and Exxon Mobile have taken up a huge chunk of land that has largely gone unused except for their facilities. It would be a total renovation and boon to riverside to instead have commerce come to this area instead (as well as the roads to accommodate it.
- Less litter. new playgrounds
- Better roads and more unified community between the 3 villages in the city
- A pool
- More kids playing outside together in fun places. Play with friends
- I would like to see less pollution
- Better roads, more renovated school facilities, better educated youth, more opportunities for youth involvement in community, shopping centers, preservation of parks and local ecosystems.
- Community and townie pride still living on through Community events. The town cleaned up from trash and debri and litter and the streets improved from massive potholes
- Places to hang by the water with friends and family....like India point park, floating restuarant or a walkway to fox point that wadd like a park. Not so industrial but maybe buildings with art murals like near the PPac
- Bullocks point cleaned up. Providence to work more closely with EP to reduce pollution from the metal recycling plant on the Providence river. Also, the pollution from the petroleum ships.
- more trees, better sidewalks and roads, affordable and decent housing.

- I don't know

# East Providence Topic Public Workshops

The City sponsored four workshops at the East Providence Senior Center in September and October 2021. Each workshop covered specific topics:

Date	Topics
September 28, 2021	Housing, equity, and public health
September 30, 2021	Historic and cultural resources and City services
October 5, 2021	Economic development, Waterfront District, and transportation
October 7, 2021	Recreation, open space, natural resources, and climate change

During these meetings, issues heard through the community survey, staff interviews, board and committee meetings, and other input were discussed. The discussions were used to confirm what had been heard to date, identify what was missing, and think about new opportunities for the City. Maps and other materials were available. Ideas the City was considering on how to move forward were also presented. Discussion in small groups focused on the following questions:

- Do you agree with the current and future issues presented? What's missing?
- Do you agree with the direction for moving forward presented? What's missing (new projects or initiatives)?
  - For each strategy or policy consider... Where can/should this be applied? Which residents would benefit the most?
  - How do we get this done? Who should be involved (city reps and community groups)?
- What do you consider priorities?

Attendance ranged from 20 to 30 people per workshop. In addition to the general public, attendance included representatives of the business community, city departments, City Council, city boards and committees, and local community groups. This cross-section led to meaningful discussion that offered different perspectives.

## Housing, Public Health, and Equity

What's missing

Housing

- Need for larger affordable homes accessible to families (not just studios and one-bedrooms).
- There are a lot of housing programs that exist for families, but they need to be better advertised and promoted. In general, there are a lot of programs related to housing and health that aren't well known. Need a central clearinghouse of resources and data.
- We need more regulatory and policy tools to create affordable housing (zoning reform).
- Encourage housing types that can support multi-generational households.
- Need more flexible housing – live/work space and home occupations should be allowed.
- Location of affordable (LMI) homes need to be targeted where they have access to transit, shopping, and services. Make it easier for residents without cars to get to where they need to go.
- Healthy homes issues – do we have data on issues like lead paint, asbestos, radon, etc.?
- Need for affordable and accessible shared work spaces, subsidized WiFi, etc.

- People have housing but housing is in poor condition, renters fear being kicked out of their home when reporting the poor conditions to landlord, needs to be greater enforcement on the quality of housing/inspections
- Lack of affordable housing
  - Young adults are being pushed out/priced out
  - Housing is available but it's too expensive
- Need for different housing types, missing middle housing
- There is a large housing demand
- Needs to have better messaging/information about affordable housing/multi-family housing
  - Communication/messaging
- Mis-match of housing for different populations
  - Seniors aging in place
  - Young families
- Accessible units are needed
- Prioritize/incentivize local developers/investment in the City

## Public Health

- Need better treatment options for people with substance abuse issues.
- More access to early childhood education generally leads to better health and educational outcomes for children.
- Encourage more local doctors to accept Medicaid.
- Food access is an issue for many people. Not just accessing fresh food via transit but whether they have adequate kitchen facilities to store and prepare healthy foods.
- Support for pregnant women – access to pre-natal care and education, mental health care and education. Ensure this is culturally competent for women of different backgrounds and incomes.
- Generally, make sure public health strategies consider race and equity issues.

### 1. Making New Development Better

- Zoning Reform to create more “whole” neighborhoods
  - Create nodes for mixed-use and mixed-income housing where people can walk to the things they need
  - Target these to service rich areas near transit, shopping, healthcare, etc.
  - Make accessory dwelling units easier to permit and build
  - Allow for a greater diversity of housing types (2- and 3-family, apartments, townhouses, etc.)
  - Allow for a greater diversity of allowed uses in residential districts.
- Financial incentives to create more “whole” neighborhoods
  - Tax incentives
  - Grants
  - Gap financing

### 2. Food Access

- Allow roof gardens
- Host gardening/urban agriculture classes to teach people how to grow food at home
- Make sure zoning allows for indoor agriculture
- Expand farmers markets throughout the City. Explore options for a year-round farmers market, and indoor spaces for wintertime. Consider building a food hall or public market that could sell food, host classes, etc.

3. Make retail spaces more affordable. Maybe zone for smaller square footage for retail spaces in certain areas?
4. Social Service Programs – Advocate to provide them on a sliding scale, so that services don't simply go from all to nothing when people hit a certain income. The higher your income, the less benefits you get, and vice versa.
5. Transit – consider sponsoring a City-run trolley/van/shuttle service to augment/fill gaps of RIPTA service.
6. Economic Development – establish business incubators/hubs throughout the City in key nodes. Encourage particular types of start up in each location (health, food, etc.). Also, need City staff dedicated to promoting economic development in East Providence, and proactively reaching out to developers and businesses to take advantage of new zoning, enterprise zones, etc.
7. Information/Communication
  - Need an online clearinghouse for resources, ideally on the City's website, with links to both City and outside resources of all kinds.
  - Revamp the navigation of the City's website so there are no dead ends. Mass.gov sites mentioned as a good example.
  - Make City the most trusted source of good, factual information. Make the information the public needs as easy to get as possible.
  - Use the City's website as a source for dispelling misinformation.
  - Use analytics to see how people are using the website and which pages are most popular or unpopular. Use this information to reconfigure the website to make sure the most important pages/information are being seen.
8. Local Leadership – Need local leaders who can identify needs and then actively go after all the multiple resources needed to meet these needs.

## Historic and Cultural Resources

1. Adapt and reuse historic sites and structures\*\*
  - Hunts Mill: pump house, Brown House (could be a welcome center), Boys and Girls Club have used the property
  - How: Federal and State tax credits, grants
  - National Trust can help give money to advertise historic sites/structures
  - Look for help with the National Register of Historic Sites
  - Reuse older or historic school buildings for senior/affordable housing
  - Important to identify how these sites and structures will be used ahead of time
2. Connect resources and increase awareness
  - Walk/driving/biking (multimodal) trails
  - Internet resources, website, apps
  - Signage to bring awareness\*\*
  - Waterfront: use for tourism, open space, transit, etc.
3. Grow the arts in East Providence
  - Shutdown streets for local car shows
  - Incentives for artists in the Arts District:
    - advertise these benefits better
    - Fill empty storefronts (Rose Building – Warren Ave)
    - Artist residencies/studio spaces: great example in Alexandria VA, Torpedo Factory (good incentive?)



- Bigger music venue
  - Connection with High School art dept
  - Invite RISD
  - City have stronger support with local festivals like the Looff
  - What do Artists need?
    - Need incubator space; learn how to sell their work; setup website; studio space (rent by the hour?)
    - Pump House @ Hunts Mill? City owned building would help with reduced costs.
4. Showcase the City's heritage and diversity
- Equal opportunity office or cultural affairs office/resources
  - African American history, mobile bus museum/exhibit should be made permanent
  - Focus on native American history
  - Cultural food festival
  - Build up existing festivals
  - Focus on more Portuguese and Cape Verdean activities, events, etc.
  - Warren Ave Restaurants
  - Center to direct people, educate (ex. Charleston, SC)
  - Revive Riverside, showcase seaside
  - Rumford
  - Carousel ☞ get it working, keep it working, make it an attraction. Master plan for whole park.
5. Other
- Roger Williams: students helping with grant writing in the historic preservation program/classes
  - Bringing Blackstone Valley down
  - East Providence's connection with Native Americans
  - Sowams heritage area
  - Interpretive signage
  - Creating connections between sites
  - Pawtucket corridor
  - Ten Mile River
  - Green Jacket Shoals
  - Exploring the water as tourism, boating\*\*

## City Services and Infrastructure

1. Invest in long term maintenance and upgrades of facilities and infrastructure
- Transparency
  - Fix the roads\*\*
  - Projection of buildings and facilities from climate change
    - Is there funding for that?
    - More focus on private owners and emergency management
  - Renewable energy incentives and initiatives for homeowners, more education and outreach
  - Repairing pot holes is easy to report and they are quick

- Deferred maintenance → sustainable funding – how?
  - Treatment plant in Riverside → odor issue
  - Sidewalks – trees.
    - ADA. What about those on State roads?
    - Bullocks Point Ave.
  - National Grid and street work or other work agreement.
  - State roads.
2. Support public safety needs
    - Emergency management: local citizen groups?
    - Public safety is reliable, communication has been great
    - New public safety building
    - Recruitment for public safety positions, qualifications should be looked at
    - Wellness facility/center
    - Great EMTs
    - Staffing, equipment.
    - Sabin Point Park – safety
    - Cameras – mobile
    - Waterman Ave dumping garbage
    - Speeding in neighborhoods citywide
  3. Support the social needs of the community
    - Public meeting spaces for local groups/organizations to use\*\*
    - Library is a great resource
    - Community gardens/food resiliency, gardens at Hunts are great
    - Outreach to isolated/homebound residents
    - Substance abuse -> churches, lighthouse shop
    - Identify vulnerable pregnant mothers – EBCAP better navigation to services
    - Homelessness
    - Transportation needs
    - Schools/students
    - Public bathrooms and park/bike path
  4. Ensure transparent communication and active citizen participation
    - Volunteering for your local city (tax breaks?)
    - Process for projects. E.g. state funding for state roads.
    - Business with city online more.
    - It's hard to get to meetings [especially for families]. Zoom was/is working well, or childcare on site at meetings
    - Email at meeting notices (zoning, etc.). There are still kinks with this.
    - Facebook is not reliable to reach everyone.
    - Adaptable to new technology.
  5. Other
    - Veteran's Office/Resources locally in East Providence
    - Community resilience programs (community gardens, should expand)
    - High school: utilize with broader community
    - Higher education classes and adult learning
    - Promotion of what the city depts are doing/offering

- Access to the water for the public
- Well kept playgrounds that are safe\*\*
- Dangerous currents at Sabin Point, concerned about allowing swimming
- Roads need to be more bike/pedestrian friendly:
  - Roads (Warren Ave)
  - Trees – What types (Pawtucket Ave)
  - ADA (Bullock Pt Ave)
  - Sidewalks (Taunton Ave)
  - Bike lanes (Warren Ave)
  - Bury the utilities (Newport Ave)

## Economic Development and Waterfront District

What's missing?

- Mindset of general public perception
  - Understanding why we have challenges (e.g., empty stores)
  - More direct outreach
  - Staff @ City Hall and technical expertise: capacity
  - Simplicity in regulations, includes state regulations
  - Relationship between topics/issue. How do we balance?
  - Where do the resources come from? Money? State/federal sources?
  - What is our economic identifier? Our identity?
  - Need open space
  - Agriculture
    - Walker House
    - Urban and suburban spaces
  - Incubator and technology
1. Build a local workforce
    - School/vocational-technical school, offer classes
    - Local labor unions in city
    - Support **entr.** can lead to a stronger workforce
    - COVID Dropouts
    - Focus on smaller business
    - Housing to support the workforce
    - Encourage hiring local?
    - Adult education for the trades. Unions in City. Ex. Westerly Education Center
    - New high school – vo-tech (culinary program)
    - Apprenticeships with local unions
    - Having childcare – shared workspace
    - Mentorships with local business (e.g., bakers, makers)
    - Fuller Creative Learning Center (Kitchen, 3D printer)
  2. Invest in aging commercial and retail corridors, neighborhood centers
    - Road aesthetic
    - More attractive area to attract businesses
    - Main Street coordination? Business Improvement Districts (GSRI)
    - Linking training, opportunity with empty space/storefronts

- Six Corners, Waterman Ave to WPD
  - Interactive experience that draws people -> Arts District; Pedestrian only times
  - Attracting people to Riverside Square, Bike path, carousel
  - Local regulations
3. Grow new industries and sectors
- Tourism – no hotels
    - Permanent music venue can lead to other hospitalities
    - Signage on bike path
    - Work with Providence
  - Coworking space
  - Will businesses be downsizing?
  - Waterman Ave, starting to empty
  - How to refurbish, reuse spaces. Is it new regulations?
  - Blackstone Valley Tourism Council – new member
    - Historic landmarks
    - Businesses that attract families
    - Restaurants, breweries
  - Climate change
    - Solar
    - Green technology
    - Coordination with colleges
4. Support arts and cultural resources as economic investments
- Block party, pedestrian only times (see previous ideas), experiences
  - Incentives to local businesses to partner with artist, Showcase artwork
  - Vacant space: Murals, pop-up galleries
5. Support the Waterfront District as a regional destination for living, working, and playing
- Rental opportunities for kayak/recreation opportunities (affordable)
  - Link with universities for recreation, Water Department activities
  - Invest in waterfront arks to build amenities
  - Beach and Sabin Point
  - Improve stormwater quality and retention
  - RI Hospital?
  - Trees – buffer smell, sound
  - Talk with Providence about the aesthetics
  - Bold Point Park: Parking, Pierce Field, India Point Park
  - Henderson Bridge
    - Boardwalk, public park, access to water
    - Safety while properties are not developed
  - Connect developments in district for public access
  - Awareness of floodplain
    - Bold Point to Metacomet
    - North to Henderson

## Transportation and Connectivity

What's missing?

- Access to bike path
  - Bike lanes on streets (like Providence)
  - Bike access for children (ex. Barrington)
    - Culture of biking
    - Biking to school
  - Make buses more attractive/viable
  - Local shuttle system: e.g. schools to recreation center
  - Extension of commuter rail (MBTA)
  - Public charging stations
  - Driverless cars
  - Incentives to reduce driving
  - Six Corners Circulation (one-way pattern)
  - Funding sources and costs
  - Incorporating state agencies
  - How RIPTA changes impact City
  - Improve connectivity – Henderson Bridge – Broadway, Pawtucket Ave (Bike Path), Mobile to Wampanoag Trail
  - Sidewalk condition/ADA
    - plowing/maintenance policy
    - opportunity for biking?
  - Don't concentrate all improvements in Waterfront
  - Safer connectivity to schools
  - EBBP to 10 Mile Greenway connection (and other areas too). Extension or road network.
  - GW Bridge to Henderson Bridge Path
  - Public education (driving, safety)
  - Intersection of major roads
  - Vet. Mem. Parkway
  - Impact of new development on bike path
1. Expanding access to developing areas
    - RIPTA – encourage ridership at Waterfront
    - Shuttles and trolley
    - Access to/from development areas
    - Residential to school, doctor, typical destinations
    - Connecting to community assets
    - Safety at intersections/education
    - Weaver Library/Downtown – separate space for walking and biking (ex. Pedestrian Mall)
    - Abandoned drawbridge connection?
    - Mobile prop. Area bike connectivity
  2. Enhancing public transit
    - Use senior center shuttles for trips – grocery
    - Employment shuttles
    - Culture/incentives
    - Covered/enhanced bus shelters: Art, neighborhood contest

- Slow bus service -> More direct routes, express routes, small loop
  - Integrating buses with bikes (on vehicle)
3. Developing complete streets
- Main corridors more walkable
  - Watchemoket Square/Arts District
  - Include “leafy streets” (trees)
  - “Kill your lawn”
  - Centralized bike path connecting to destinations/different neighborhoods
  - Focus citywide strategy
  - Improve streets/sidewalks as well as possible opportunities with RIDOT (Pawtucket, Waterman, Taunton Avenues, North Broadway)
    - When city repaves roads
    - Coordinate with utility companies
    - Reduce impervious surfaces
4. Improving connectivity and safety
- Overall sidewalk repair (see above)
  - Opportunity for pedestrian flashing beacons
  - Café Zara – bump cut at crosswalk
  - Pawtucket/Main roads sidewalks – ADA; need to work with state
  - Education for pedestrian and bicyclists
  - Snow shoveling policy – community service, elderly concerns
  - Reimagine Six Corners: Two way traffic
  - Bike connectivity to Willet Pond and East Bay Path
  - End of Forbes Street to go north
  - Newport Ave drainage
  - Café Zara/Taunton Ave – Potential City Center
    - Re-route trucks? Better truck connection
    - Traffic and noise
  - Neighborhood tribalism – geographic barriers, separate neighborhoods (ex. Riverside is split)

## Open Space and Recreation

- What’s missing?
  - Value of water as open space.
    - Narragansett Bay, Seekonk River, Providence River.
    - Fishing, kayaking, non-motor
  - Connect conservation areas.
    - Eg. Turner Res: no formal areas to get into water.
  - More formal access.
    - Spaces next to water.
  - Use the bike path to connect (walking/bikes)
    - Cons. And recreation area
  - More community gardens
    - EBCAP → Road to Equity

- Food insecurity
  - Targeting Diabetes
  - Botanical gardens -> Keep Metacomet Green list of potential projects
  - Neon sign ☒ Crescent View Avenue by bike path
  - Tasteful signage at the bike crossing -> “bike and wildlife corridor”
  - Partnering with surrounding communities
1. Support maintenance and upkeep
    - Staff park maintenance
      - Arborist (down from 1 from 2 on city staff)
      - Trail → Parks will help with trail maintenance
    - COVID impact on parks and conservation areas → overuse, trash, damage
    - Volunteers → park and conservation areas
      - There is a “leader”
    - Multiyear plans for parks
    - Urban tree management and protection
    - Funding → grant writing → designated person at the city
    - Restroom upkeep and availability
    - Trash and recycling
    - Trail maintenance → poison ivy and invasives
    - Tree donations from community
    - Inventory of spaces → what could be a more natural space (wildlife fields, no-now zones)
  2. Provide equitable access to resources
    - ADA part of upgrade discussions, ramps, more seating, accessible parking (plus enforcement)
    - Throughout city, but just not safe to walk or bike to (ex. Agawam)
    - Sidewalk improvements, including crossings, overall more ADA accessible – e.g. hearing impaired
    - Connection between Water Department and Conservation (Turner)
    - Promoting areas: BVTC
    - Information and signage in areas
    - Bike infrastructure ☒ neighborhoods and schools
    - Public restrooms in parks (children, elderly)
  3. Create new recreation opportunities
    - Year-round activities to promote active lifestyles
    - Promote walking – QR code
    - Link to sidewalks, safety, crossing
      - Hunts Mill
      - Parks, conservation areas
    - Outdoor fitness equipment
    - Recreation center/community center
    - Purchase Metacomet
    - Skatepark -> ex. City of Providence
    - Neighborhood watch -> safety
    - Community gardens -> partner with local schools (middle/high and elementary)
    - Access to waterfront -> boating, kayaking, etc.

- Supporting/reintroduction of local wildlife
- Dog parks

#### Other (Craig's notes)

- Planning for existing, privately-owned, and undeveloped green space (Mobil site)
- Zoning review (review of Allowable Uses table, and limits of site disturbance percentages)
- Need for an active, funded land trust to create more visibility
- Long term planning for coastal sites (emphasis on privately held sites and mitigation measures for erosion)...enlist experts (URI/CRMC to provide information to homeowners)
- Increase funding/Staffing for Parks and Recreation personnel
- Better access to information (enhance City's website) that maps community assets including Parks and Recreation sites, trails, local/state conservation areas, shoreline access points
- Need a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify Level of Service, Needs Analysis, and build support for future investments
- Strategy for contaminated sites (levels of contamination, remediation measures necessary, and allowable uses) dependent upon level of contamination (remediation v. capped sites)
- More waterfront rental opportunities (partnerships)
- Playgrounds need improvements (Parks and Recreation Master Plan)
- Better access to bike path from residential neighborhoods
- Better access to waterfront sites (Runnin's River) to create visibility and foster stewardship

## Natural Resources

### What's missing

- Solution with coast/sea level rise; fortified shoreline
  - Connecting different green spaces whether passive or active
  - Preserving more green spaces, making a priority
  - First Peoples → missing from the table. Bringing them in for ideas/maintenance
  - Creating a more diverse decision-making body (race, age, disabilities)
  - How do we engage? Creating connections and opportunities.
  - Less trash → Clean up groups, neighborhood groups
  - Municipal composting
  - Take/refund on the tiny bottles
  - Involving Boy/Girl Scouts →bring them into the conversation
  - Recycling/collecting cooking oil from restaurants
1. Protect and maintain important landscapes, wildlife corridors, and natural features
    - Conserving natural lands around wetlands/water corridors, buffer
    - Identifying invasive areas
    - Creating wildlife corridors
    - Keep Metacomet green
    - Equitable green space/spread evenly
    - Runnins River, Ten Mile River are important resources
    - Advocacy
      - Partnership with groups like The Nature Conservancy for easements to target land along these corridors
    - Willet Pond water quality is a concern



- DPW maintenance is doing a lot to make city's green spaces more sustainable, with sustainable practices; eg
    - Pollinator gardens, fruit trees
    - Seed mixture with clover in some parks
    - Use of fertilizer
    - Can we formalize/acknowledge these efforts?
2. Enhance the City's green infrastructure
- Increase education on Nature-Based Solutions and Low Impact Design
  - Zoning/local regulations → requirements for new and redevelopment projects.
    - Climate impacts → consider existing storm drains
  - On City lots → Willet, Bold Point, Sabin Point
  - Link with complete streets
  - Consider maintenance needs and impact on DPW
  - Alternative transportation (bike, pedestrian) weaving into city infrastructure
  - Natural coastline instead of stones/walls

#### Other (Craig)

- Need an Urban Forest Management Plan
- Staffing to manage tree canopy (City Forester only works part-time)
- Access/Utilization of Runnin's River (increase visibility/stewardship)
- Enforcement of watershed policies
- Incentive program for tree planting
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development...how to incentivize and educate (right now 'suggestions' provided to developers)
- Incentivize pavement removal/reductions
- Revisit parking requirements (reduce formula)
- Incentivize green building/green roofs
- Develop protective tree ordinance (private property)...need a permit to build a deck/shed, why not to take trees down?
- Evaluate ambient air quality

## Sustainability and Resilience

#### What's missing?

- Incentives for developers to put in "green" alternative energy/infrastructure → city level
- Solar panels → houses, apartments, parking lots, commercial buildings
- Involve students with educating the community on sustainability/resilience → incentives (credit, etc.)
- Check-ins with members of the community who are more isolated → after big climate events
- Remediate polluted sites → inventory of where these areas are

#### Bird houses → protecting local wildlife

1. Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Has the city compiled the resources in the public?
  - Rain – Kent Heights, State Street

– Sabin Point: some work has been done

- National Grid
  - Mosquitos, ticks, vector diseases, Lyme disease
  - Evacuation route; emergency management
  - Inland/neighborhood flooding → how do we handle this problem?
  - Stormwater management requirements for new developments → stricter
  - Climate change has to be the main focus for all future decisions/planning
  - Climate refugees/infrastructure
2. Educate residents and business on how they can be more resilient
- More education to public to help change habits → how? Communication
  - Letting public know progress is being made, e.g., yard compost not taken advantage of
  - Better education about trash and what can be recycled
  - Educating how to make the switch from less sustainable practices to more
  - Education on these topics via water bill
  
  - Reframing the term climate change; talking about it in a different way
  - URI → Master Gardeners, pollinator gardens, incentives for residents/businesses
  - Accessible programs/classes focusing on resilience
  - Educating businesses
  - Chamber can do outreach into the community as well
  - Food compost??
    - Co-op, incentivize for lower income households
    - Who might not have space to have a composter?

#### Other (Craig)

- Waste reduction program...pilot City composting program
- Develop restrictions for single-use plastics (bags/straws)
- Evaluate reduction of pesticides/chemicals and impacts on invasive species
- Invasive species management/eradication
- Create more naturalized areas for medians/roadways, rather than manicured grassy areas
- Look at potable water supply (chemical levels/taste)
- Incorporate a 'green curriculum' in schools
- Create Sustainability Officer position for education and enforcement (and/or outreach to technical experts)
- Utilize plant tags for native species in public spaces
- Evaluate feasibility of a green City fleet of vehicles
- Evaluate feasibility of relocating industrial park away from the coast
- Incorporate community gardens for food security

APPENDIX B  
Water Supply Management  
Plan Executive Summary



# **CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

FEBRUARY 2015  
FINAL SUBMISSION FEBRUARY 2017

*Prepared for:*

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## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

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This Water Supply System Management Plan (WSSMP) Update has been prepared in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations for Water Supply System Management Planning* promulgated pursuant to the requirements and provisions of Chapter 46-15.3 of the Public Drinking Water Supply System Protection Act of 1997 RI General Laws, as amended. Other legislation that is applicable to the development of this plan includes the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act [42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq.], RI General Law Chapter 46-13 – Public Drinking Water Supply, RI General Law Chapter 46-14 – Contamination of Drinking Water, administered by the Department of Health, RI General Law 45-22.2 – RI Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act and State Guide Plan Element 721 both administered by the RI Statewide Planning Program.

This updated Plan maintains consistency with the goals and policies of the City of East Providence Comprehensive Plan, State Guide Plan Element 721, Report 115 – *Rhode Island Water 2030*, State Guide Plan Element 121 – *Land Use 2025* and the RI Water Resources Board 2012 Strategic Plan.

This Executive Summary has been prepared to provide a general overview and comprehensive summary highlighting elements of the Plan’s contents. The Executive Summary is organized as follows:

- Intent and Purpose of the WSSMP
- Organization of the WSSMP
- Summary of the WSSMP

### ***Intent and Purpose***

The WSSMP is prepared to serve the East Providence Water Utilities Division (EPWUD) as an important and necessary WSSMP document. Its purpose is to enable the EPWUD to continue to provide reliable high quality drinking water to the customers of the EPWUD water system as well as promote effective and efficient use of the State’s water resources and to formalize the excellent operational and management practices currently utilized by the EPWUD.

### ***Organization***

The WSSMP addresses each of the elements listed within Section 8 of the *Rules and Regulations for Water Supply System Management Planning*. The WSSMP addresses each of the elements to the extent that the topic is relevant to the EPWUD water system.

### ***Summary***

This 2013 update of the EPWUD's WSSMP updates the information provided within the 2007 WSSMP which was prepared by Pare Corporation. This WSSMP also addresses the elements required by the *Rules and Regulations for Water Supply System Management Planning*.

### ***Goals Statement***

The goals statement sets the overall objectives and tone of the WSSMP. The purpose of setting the goals is not only to meet the regulatory requirements for preparation of the WSSMP, but also to promote responsible use of a public resource.

The general goals of this WSSMP are:

- To continue to provide reliable, high quality drinking water to the customers of the EPWUD water system.
- To promote effective and efficient use of the State's water resources.
- To formalize the excellent operational and proactive management practices currently utilized by the EPWUD.

The specific goals of this Plan are:

- To ensure the water quality for all water purchased, sold and wholesaled.
- To maximize the beneficial use of the current water allocation from Providence Water by reducing system losses and promoting conservation.
- To establish water supply reliability measures for primary and backup sources.
- To utilize this WSSMP as a reference document and planning tool for decision

making.

- To implement the elements of supply, demand and system management plans that are presented herein.

These goal statements are consistent with the 2010 – 2015 East Providence Comprehensive Plan, State Guide Plan Element 721, Report 115 – *Rhode Island Water 2030*, State Guide Plan Element 121 – *Land Use 2025* and the RI Water Resources Board 2012 Strategic Plan.

### ***Water System Description***

The EPWUD water system is wholly owned and operated by the City of East Providence. An organization chart of the EPWUD water system which shows all aspects of water system management and operation along with a description of key management personnel and general responsibilities is provided within the WSSMP.

The EPWUD purchases all of its water from Providence Water. As such, the EPWUD does not own or operate a water supply source or treatment facility. The EPWUD water system starts in Cranston on Budlong Road where a 42-inch transmission pipeline is connected to the Providence Water water system. From this connection, the 42-inch pipeline travels east through Cranston and Providence to the Providence River. Twin 30-inch pipelines carry the flow beneath the Providence River. On the East Providence side of the Providence River, the twin 30-inch pipelines meet at a metering pit on Veteran’s Memorial Parkway. The flow is again combined and carried through a 42-inch pipeline which decreases to a 30-inch pipeline before entering the EPWUD’s storage facilities.

The EPWUD water system is presently served by two storage facilities, each of which serves one of the EPWUD’s two pressure zones. The pressure zones are known as the High Service and Low Service areas. The Low Service tank is an 8.0 million gallon standpipe constructed of welded steel and is approximately 48 years old. The High Service tank is a 1.0 million gallon spheroidal elevated tank constructed of welded steel. This High Service tank was constructed in 1998.

There is one pumping station within the water system. This station, located at the Kent Heights Storage Facilities Site, is used to boost water from the Low Service System to the High Service System and to the 1.0 million gallon elevated High Service tank. The station, which was upgraded in 1998 as part of the High Service tank construction, contains three (3) constant speed 1,000 gpm pumps. Emergency power is provided by a 250 kW diesel generator.

The EPWUD's transmission piping is defined as all piping within the water system that is 16-inches in diameter or greater. These pipelines include the 42-inch transmission pipeline, which runs through Cranston and Providence, the twin 30-inch pipelines beneath the Providence River and the 42-inch and 30-inch pipelines in East Providence.

The EPWUD has emergency interconnections with neighboring water suppliers in addition to the system's main interconnection with Providence Water. There are three points of interconnections with the Pawtucket Water Supply Board (Pawtucket) system. These interconnections are for the emergency delivery of water from Pawtucket to the EPWUD water system and were last used in 1995 during the catastrophic break of the 102-inch Providence Water transmission pipeline. Also, two interconnections were established in 1987 with the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) to supply water from the EPWUD system to the BCWA water system for emergency purposes only. As part of the cross-bay pipeline project, a pumping station was built in East Providence in 1998. The purpose of the pumping station was to provide the EPWUD with an emergency flow of water in the event that the EPWUD's main transmission pipeline from Providence Water fails. This pump station has remained unused for the past 16 years and is pending resolution regarding the ownership of the station. There are ongoing discussions with the BCWA regarding this pump station as it is unclear whether the BCWA maintains ownership of the pump station. As previously noted, the intent of the pump station and interconnection was to serve as a backup source to the existing 42-inch transmission main from Providence Water. At one time, there was another interconnection between the 42-inch line and the Providence Water distribution system at Allens Avenue near the Providence River which was used during construction of the 42-inch pipeline. The capability of reactivating this interconnection as an emergency supply is continuously being evaluated. A study is currently underway to determine



the feasibility of reactivating this interconnection. This study is expected to be completed by April of 2016.

The EPWUD water system is entirely bounded by the City limits of East Providence. In general, there is little undeveloped land in East Providence to which new water services could be connected. Due to the build-out of East Providence, there are no planned extensions to the water system.

Nearly all buildings in East Providence as well as some residences in Barrington are served by the EPWUD water system. In 2013, there were 14,942 service connections, which are broken down in Table 1. East Providence estimates its current population at 47,037 and the EPWUD estimates that it serves a population of 47,096.

<b>TABLE 1 NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>2013</b>
Residential	14,271
Commercial	535
Industrial	36
Governmental	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,942</b>

The EPWUD’s only master meter is at the connection with Providence Water at Budlong Road in Cranston as shown on the Water Supply System Map in Appendix A of Volume I of the WSSMP. This meter is owned by the EPWUD and is a 42-inch by 24-inch BIF Type M Venturi meter installed in 1968. The flow is read continuously and recorded on a circular chart recorder and on a totalizer. The meter is tested on an annual basis and calibrated as needed.

Major users are defined as those consumers who use more than 3 million gallons of water per year. Based on 2013 sales, there are 10 major users in the EPWUD water system. In general, all major users have meters that are 2-inches or larger. In the EPWUD system, all meters larger than 2-inches are owned by the customer who is responsible for testing, calibration and maintenance of their meters. The EPWUD has two meters to service the emergency interconnections with the

BCWA located on Richmond Street and Metropolitan Park Drive. These meters are owned by the EPWUD and are 6-inch by 3-inch Hersey meters that were installed in 1987. The meters are tested and calibrated before use. All temporary hydrant connections for bulk water sales are measured using hydrant meters.

Since October 30, 1970, the EPWUD has obtained all of its water from Providence Water. Over the past 11 years, (2003 – 2013), wholesale water purchases have ranged from 1,457.06 to 1,815.61 million gallons (MG) per year. The EPWUD purchased 1,457.06 MG in the year 2013 with an average day demand (ADD) of 3.99 million gallons per day (MGD). The average system per capita demand for total water purchased in 2013 was estimated to be 84.72 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) with a high of 105.32 gpcd in July and a low of 65.82 gpcd in November. It is noted that the limit of water to be supplied by Providence Water of 150 gpcd per month was not exceeded in 2013.

The EPWUD has not made any wholesale water sales to any other water supplier since 1998. Current water consumption for the year 2013 was determined to be 1,261.63 MG, which corresponds to an average day demand of 3.45 MGD. Residential water use was determined to be 977.75 MG, which corresponds to an average day demand of 2.68 MGD and a per capita demand for residential water usage of 56.91 gpcd. It should be noted that the residential per capita water usage is below the target of 65 gpcd established by the RI Water Resources Board. The relative percentages of current water consumption are presented in the following table.

<b>TABLE 2 USER CATEGORY PERCENT CONSUMPTION</b>		
<b>User Category</b>	<b>% Consumption</b>	<b>% of Service Connections</b>
Residential	77.5	95.5
Commercial	14.2	3.6
Industrial	7.3	0.24
Governmental	0.97	0.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.97</b>	<b>100.01</b>

The percentage of unaccounted water from 2003 to 2013 has ranged from 4.68% in 2009 to 16.59% in 2011 with an 11 year average of 9.47% and 13.41% for the current year, 2013. The

EPWUD is working continuously to maintain the goal of less than 15% non-account water as set forth in the State Guide Plan. Currently, the EPWUD is below the goal of 15% unaccounted water at 13.41% and the average for the past 11 years is also below the goal of 15% unaccounted water at 9.47%. The EPWUD is currently slightly above the goal of 10% leakage at 13.41% however, the average for the past 11 years is below the goal of 10% leakage at 9.47%. The EPWUD shall continue to strive to maintain the statewide goal of less than 10% leakage.

The EPWUD practices the following demand management measures: 100% metering and billing of its water users including governmental and public accounts, a combined uniform water and wastewater rate structure, a Major Users Technical Assistance Program (MUTAP), public education and water use restrictions and regulations.

The EPWUD's main deficiency is related to its sole source of supply from a single pipeline interconnection with Providence Water. The EPWUD is working towards activating the emergency interconnection with the BCWA at the Pawtucket Avenue Pump Station to facilitate an inspection of the EPWUD 42-inch pipeline connection to Providence Water. The EPWUD is also working to construct a permanent interconnection with Pawtucket to be utilized as an emergency supply and which would also allow for the inspection of the 42-inch pipeline connection to Providence Water. These efforts, along with additional efforts in the form of major system improvements, plans and studies that have been completed or are under consideration are listed below.

### ***System Improvements***

- Money has been budgeted to conduct an analysis of the structural integrity of the EPWUD's 42-inch pipeline from the master meter station on Budlong Road in Cranston to the Kent Heights Pump Station. This project can be completed once the BCWA emergency connection and Pawtucket Avenue Pump Station are operational.
- The EPWUD is working with Pawtucket to construct an interconnection with the Pawtucket water system to be utilized on an emergency basis. This new interconnection would provide the EPWUD with a redundant source of supply and may serve the EPWUD as a future permanent supply source. A new interconnection

with Pawtucket is necessary due to a lack of a reliable backup supply source within the EPWUD system. Completion of this project would also allow for inspection of the 42-inch pipeline that supplies water to the EPWUD from the master meter on Budlong Road in Cranston.

- Over the past several years, the EPWUD has improved over 17 miles of pipeline through either cleaning and lining or complete pipeline replacement. There are still 25 miles of pipeline throughout the EPWUD water system that still require improvements. The EPWUD shall continue to make these pipeline improvements throughout the coming months.
- In an effort to address water quality issues, the EPWUD identified several projects to improve water quality within the water system. These identified improvements consist of the installation of a new chlorination station at the Kent Heights Storage Facilities Site, the construction of a new 6.0 MG water storage tank at the Kent Heights Storage Facilities Site and the construction of a new 20-inch transmission main at the Kent Heights Storage Facilities Site.

### ***Water Quality Protection***

The EPWUD purchases treated water from Providence Water and directly supports their water quality protection efforts through a billing surcharge therefore, source water protection areas and potential contamination of sources is not included within this WSSMP. However, this section discusses the potential for contamination from within the distribution system. In the spring of 2005, the EPWUD was placed on a boil water advisory after water quality samples taken in East Providence tested positive for E-coli bacteria. An aggressive effort was made to identify possible sources of contamination, but none were found. Increased sampling efforts failed to find additional E-coli bacteria in the system and a review of operational procedures found no deficiencies that would increase the potential for contamination. The boil water advisory was lifted after approximately 3 weeks of bacteria free sample results. The EPWUD and City have since passed a backflow protection ordinance aimed at reducing the risk of water system contamination and the EPWUD is currently utilizing a unidirectional flushing program.

Prior to obtaining its water from Providence Water, the EPWUD derived its water supply from the Turner Reservoir. As part of the original contract with Providence Water, the EPWUD is prohibited from utilizing this source while being supplied by Providence Water. Therefore, this source has been abandoned since switching over to the Providence Water supply on October 30, 1970. The Turner Reservoir has been identified as a critical area of concern and is addressed in the City of East Providence Comprehensive Plan and was the subject of a 2001 study completed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The City of East Providence currently owns the Turner Reservoir and maintains the area as recreational land. Due to development upstream of the reservoir, the watershed has become vulnerable. The City of East Providence does not control land usage upstream of the Turner Reservoir and it would be cost prohibitive to do so. The study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers indicated that the Turner Reservoir may be able to be used as a back-up water supply however, expensive treatment processes due to heavy aquatic plant growth, the potential for coliform bacteria and elevated levels of contaminants would need to be implemented which would also be cost prohibitive for the City of East Providence. Therefore, the EPWUD is not considering returning the Turner Reservoir to use as a water supply source.

### ***Supply Management***

This section presents the projections of the EPWUD's demands for water for the 5 year (2018) and 20 year (2033) planning horizons. These projections are made based on a review of current conditions, historical trends, the findings of the 2010 US Census, Rhode Island Statewide Planning (RISWP) figures and projections and the 2010 – 2015 East Providence Comprehensive Plan. The EPWUD does not have any future plans for wholesale water sales to the BCWA or Pawtucket. Therefore, future wholesale water sales are not included in either the 5 or 20 year projections. There are no system expansions planned for the future. At this time, there are no active legal contracts or obligations between East Providence and any of its customers to supply a certain quantity of water.

The following table details the ADD for the current year and the projected 5 and 20 year planning periods.

<b>TABLE 3 PROJECTED WATER DEMANDS</b>					
		<b>5 Year Projections (2018)</b>		<b>20 Year Projections (2033)</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>2013 ADD</b>	<b>Annual Use</b>	<b>ADD</b>	<b>Annual Use</b>	<b>ADD</b>
Residential	2.68 MG	953.31 MG	2.61 MG	896.60 MG	2.46 MG
Commercial	0.49 MG	174.45 MG	0.48 MG	164.07 MG	0.45 MG
Industrial	0.25 MG	92.70 MG	0.25 MG	92.70 MG	0.25 MG
Government	0.03 MG	12.26 MG	0.03 MG	12.26 MG	0.03 MG
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.45 MG</b>	<b>1232.72 MG</b>	<b>3.37 MG</b>	<b>1165.63 MG</b>	<b>3.19 MG</b>

These figures result in per capita demands for the 5 year planning period of 73.39 gpcd and for the 20 year planning period of 73.89 gpcd.

The EPWUD purchases treated water exclusively from Providence Water. The original legislation to supply the EPWUD with wholesale water purchases from Providence Water allowed the EPWUD to draw up to 150 gallons per capita per day of average daily flow from Providence Water calculated on a monthly basis. When compared with the per capita demands determined in the preceding sections, the EPWUD is not projected to have water supply shortages in the 5 or 20 year planning periods. The projection of no shortages is predicated on Providence Water not reducing the amount of water it supplies to the EPWUD.

The EPWUD had entered into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to perform a study of the Turner Reservoir and the Turner Reservoir Well Field area for potential reuse. The study was completed in 2001 and determined both sources “may be suitable for a back-up water supply”. However, the report also noted that both supplies would require thorough and expensive treatment processes due to heavy aquatic plant growth within Turner Reservoir, a potential for coliform bacteria and elevated levels of contaminants, particularly cadmium in sediments. Additionally, the City of East Providence owns the Turner Reservoir and maintains the area as recreational land. However, the City of East Providence does not control land usage and development upstream of the Turner Reservoir and doing so would be cost prohibitive. As such, the EPWUD is not considering the reuse of the Turner Reservoir as a supply source for the water system.

### ***Demand Management***

This section presents the measures used by the EPWUD in order to efficiently manage the demands for water by the users of the EPWUD water system. The two main tools that the EPWUD uses for demand management are the Major Users Technical Assistance Program and a uniform combined water and wastewater block rate.

The EPWUD has implemented the following demand management techniques to achieve permanent and long-term water savings:

- Enforcement of State plumbing code regulations.
- Close scrutiny of the water usage of newly proposed industrial developments.
- Encouragement of all major commercial and industrial users to adopt water recycling in their processes. When funding permits, the EPWUD will consult the RI State Guide Plan Element 721, Report 115 – *Rhode Island Water 2030* for water reuse and recycling programs that may be implemented within the EPWUD water system service territory.
- Public education on water conservation and general water system information.
- Combined water and wastewater rates that compel consumers to evaluate their water use and its effect on wastewater production thereby aiding in water conservation.
- Water use restrictions implemented when necessary.

### ***System Management***

This section of the WSSMP presents the measures that are and will be taken by the EPWUD in order to reliably and continuously deliver a clean supply of water to its customers and to minimize non-account water and leakage. Presently, the EPWUD practices many of the principles of sound system management. This section documents the success of the programs which have been implemented and the procedures used so that the programs continue to be implemented with consistency in the future. The section focuses on the main components of the EPWUD's system management practices which are as follows: meter management, leak detection and preventative maintenance.

The Kent Heights Low Service Storage Tank was taken out of service in May 2011 for cleaning. In addition to the cleaning, the floor seams were repaired and the vent screen was replaced. Because this tank is scheduled for replacement in 2015, it was determined that painting would not be required. Also in May 2011, the Kent Heights High Service Storage Tank was inspected and repairs were made to the vent screen. This tank is scheduled to be painted in 2017.

The EPWUD's meter installation and maintenance program was previously detailed under the Water System Description section. The EPWUD completed a formal city-wide Leak Detection and Repair (LDR) program in 2005. The survey showed the system to have a very low rate of leakage, and as such, it was determined that the leak detection and repair objectives had been achieved. Since completion of the LDR program in 2005, the EPWUD purchased leak correlation equipment and has recently completed an in-house, system-wide LDR survey in the spring of 2015. The EPWUD anticipates that an in-house, system-wide LDR survey will be completed every 3 to 5 years. As part of the meter replacement program, the EPWUD is planning to install a fixed network meter reading system which will include leak sensors on residential customer services that will provide real time leak detection. It is anticipated that the entire system-wide meter replacement program will take 6 to 7 years to complete. The EPWUD will continue to be aggressive in its efforts to minimize loss from leakage.

The EPWUD is currently utilizing a unidirectional flushing program. The program plan divides the EPWUD's water distribution system into 50 separate flushing zones. The EPWUD currently performs sound preventative maintenance practices in the operation of its storage and distribution system.

### ***Emergency Management and Drought Management***

The EPWUD has an emergency management plan that was developed in 2004 and updated in concert with this WSSMP. The East Providence Water Utilities Division utilizes this document for emergency procedures and is contained within Volume II of the WSSMP.

The EPWUD relies solely on Providence Water for water supply, and therefore, they are also



dependent on Providence Water for drought management. The EPWUD works in conjunction with Providence Water on preventive measures and maintenance to aid Providence Water in drought management. The EPWUD also provides response measures to emergency events, including drought, within the Emergency Response Plan, Volume II.

During a drought event, the EPWUD will work with State officials to institute stricter water conservation measures in accordance with the RI State Guide Plan Element 721, Report 115 – *Rhode Island Water 2030*. *Rhode Island Water 2030* identifies five (5) drought phases: normal conditions, drought advisory, drought watch, drought warning and drought emergency. Drought triggers based upon the supply capacity to the EPWUD system from Providence Water are utilized to determine the drought phase. Based upon the drought phase, the EPWUD will consider appropriate water conservation measures and notify the public of these measures. Such water conservation measures may include voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions, declarations of a local water emergency and the prohibition of nonessential uses of potable water. Any drought restrictions implemented by the EPWUD’s supplier, Providence Water, in their system shall be adopted by the EPWUD water system.

The EPWUD’s drought triggers and water reduction goals and responses for each stage of drought are consistent with RI State Guide Plan 721, Report 115 – *Rhode Island Water 2030* guidelines.

### ***Implementation Schedule***

An implementation plan was developed which lists each action item, the responsible person(s), department and/or organization, implementation time frame and the estimated costs for each action, if applicable, for the following programs:

- Residential Retrofit Program
- Major Users Technical Assistance Program
- Meter Installation, Maintenance and Replacement Program
- Leak Detection and Repair Program
- Preventative Maintenance Program

The implementation schedule of the EPWUD's significant Capital Improvement projects was previously detailed in the System Improvements section.

### ***Financial Management***

The system is operated as an enterprise fund. Basic financial principles are utilized to assure that the rates and charges imposed are sufficient to ensure that the organization can operate on a self-sustaining basis. The existing rate structure is a simple flat or uniform rate of \$3.32 per 100 cubic feet of metered water. An annual fixed meter charge ranging from \$80 to \$6,000 depending upon meter size is also applied to all water system customers. The Water Utilities Division conducts meter readings. Residential, commercial and intermediate sized customers are billed on a quarterly basis. Major users are billed monthly. Payments are issued by the Water Utilities Division and collected by the Finance Department. The existing wastewater rate structure is a simple flat or uniform rate of \$7.78 per 100 cubic feet of metered wastewater. When combined with the water rate this yields a total rate of \$11.10 per 100 cubic feet for both water and wastewater use. The water rate combined with a uniform wastewater rate compels consumers to evaluate their water use and the effect on wastewater production which drives water usage down which in turn aids in water conservation. The EPWUD has recently conducted a rate study from which these current rates were developed and these rates are determined to be of the most appropriate structure and took into consideration necessary system funding, customer affordability and water conservation. During the recent rate study, an inclining block rate structure was not considered due to the fact that the current combined water and wastewater rates have had a significant impact on water usage within the EPWUD water system leading to considerable water conservation by consumers. The combined water and wastewater rates will be evaluated in the next rate study to determine if the current rate structure will continue to be the most appropriate rate structure to provide system funding, customer affordability and water conservation.

### ***Coordination***

The information contained within the WSSMP has been developed to be consistent with the East Providence Comprehensive Plan particularly as it relates to population growth, economic

development, land use planning and general water use policies. The EPWUD referred to the East Providence Comprehensive Plan during the preparation of this WSSMP update to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. The City Engineering and Water Utilities Division personnel shall strive to promote consistency between the contents of the WSSMP and the policies of the East Providence Comprehensive Plan. The EPWUD participates in the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan to update applicable sections.

The EPWUD maintains a close working relationship with both neighboring suppliers, the BCWA and Pawtucket, particularly as it relates to the use of emergency interconnections. The EPWUD also maintains a close working relationship with its main supplier, Providence Water. It should be noted that the EPWUD is cognizant of the water usage rates within their water system but has no control over the withdrawal rates of the Providence Water system. Should water conditions deem it necessary, the EPWUD shall attempt to institute watershed-based coordination with Providence Water.

The EPWUD routinely coordinates with and maintains a working relationship with East Providence's wastewater collection system. The City of East Providence's wastewater collection system is managed and operated by the East Providence Water Utilities Division therefore, all operations and data collection are handled within one Division. Additionally, East Providence maintains a sewer use fee such that the wastewater system may be operated as an enterprise fund similar to the water system. The sewer use fee is now billed with the water bills and is based on water consumption.