

## City of Buffalo Community Survey

### **WHAT IS THIS SURVEY ABOUT?**

The City of Buffalo, in collaboration with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG), is updating its comprehensive plan, last revised in 2018. This Plan is an official guide to help shape Buffalo's future by setting a shared vision and recommendations for land use, development, and community growth. A comprehensive plan also opens up new funding opportunities, highlighting community needs that can attract grants and resources to improve essential services and facilities.

### **WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THIS SURVEY?**

We invite anyone connected to the City of Buffalo—whether you are a resident, student, property owner, stakeholder, developer, business owner, or commuter—to participate. If you're part of our community in any way, your input is valuable!

### **WHY PARTICIPATE?**

Your responses will help define Buffalo's path forward. The priorities and insights gathered from this survey will be shared with the Comprehensive Planning Committee to set the city's goals, objectives, and future development patterns. Your feedback will directly influence land use and policy decisions for the next 20 years.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND TIME COMMITMENT**

This survey takes about 15-25 minutes to complete and will close on April 13, 2025. Rest assured, all responses are confidential and will not be used to identify individuals.

Please submit completed surveys at one of the following locations:

- City Hall, 115 S Maple St, Buffalo, MO 65622

For questions, comments, or feedback, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha at [AishwaryaShrestha@missouristate.edu](mailto:AishwaryaShrestha@missouristate.edu).

## Demographics

1. What is your age?
  - 18 and under
  - 19-29
  - 30-39
  - 40-49
  - 50-59
  - 60-64
  - 65+ years

2. What is your current employment status?
  - Self-Employed
  - Employed full-time
  - Employed part-time
  - Unemployed, seeking employment
  - Unemployed, not seeking employment
  - Retired
  - Student (College or University)
  - Student (Trade/Technical Certification)
  - Other [please specify]
  
3. Which type industry do you work in?
  - Government and public administration
  - Agriculture (forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, farm/ranch)
  - Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing
  - Retail or sales
  - Food and beverage (hospitality, serving, preparation)
  - Health care and social work
  - Management or office
  - Education
  - Construction
  - Professional or technical services
  - Wholesale trades
  - Manufacturing and industrial
  - Transportation and warehousing
  - Other [write in response]
  
4. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?
  - Less than High school (No diploma or equivalent)
  - High School Graduate (Diploma or equivalent)
  - Vocational/Trade or Technical/Certifications
  - Some College/no degree
  - Associates degree
  - Bachelor's degree
  - Graduate or Professional degree
  - Other [write in response]

## Housing

5. Do you live or work in Buffalo city limits?
  - I live in Buffalo – Go to Question 6
  - I work in Buffalo – Go to Question 8
  - I live and work in Buffalo – Go to Question 6
  - I neither live nor work in Buffalo Go to Question 8

## Housing

### Residents (Homeowners and Renters)

6. When did you move to Buffalo, MO? (Select one)
- Moved in 2020 or later
  - Moved in 2010 to 2019
  - Moved in 2000 to 2009
  - Moved in 1990 to 1999
  - Moved in 1989 or earlier
  - I have lived here my entire life
7. As a resident of Buffalo, MO, please rate the following aspects of your housing situation and neighborhood environment. Please assign a score from 1 to 5 for each of the following aspects, where 1 = Very Poor and 5 = Excellent. You may not repeat scores across aspects.

<i>Aspect</i>	1 – Very Poor	2 - Poor	3 – Average	4 - Good	5 - Excellent
<i>Location of your home</i>					
<i>Size of your home</i>					
<i>Condition of your home</i>					
<i>Affordability of your home</i>					
<i>Safety and security of your neighborhood</i>					
<i>Availability of nearby amenities (e.g., schools, parks, shops)</i>					
<i>Neighborhood/community environment/quality (aesthetics, façades, structure maintenance, etc.)</i>					

## Housing

### Non-Residents

8. In a few words, please explain what factors would make you consider moving within the city limits of Buffalo. [write in response]

## Housing

9. Please rate the following aspects of Buffalo’s **curb appeal and visual appeal** from your perspective of entering or leaving the city. Use the scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = Very Poor and 5 = Excellent.

<i>Aspect</i>	1 – Very Poor	2 - Poor	3 – Average	4 - Good	5 – Very Good
<i>Appearance of the city's streets and roads</i>					
<i>Condition of homes and properties in residential areas</i>					

Cleanliness and upkeep of public spaces (e.g., parks, sidewalks, public areas)					
Landscaping and green spaces (e.g., trees, plants, gardens)					
Overall, first impression of the city when entering					
Availability of nearby amenities (e.g., schools, parks, shops)					
Neighborhood/community environment/quality (aesthetics, façades, structure maintenance, etc.)					

10. If you would like to comment on any of the aspects previously asked regarding Buffalo's curb appeal or overall attractiveness, please do so here. For example: If you had an overall poor perception when entering the city, where did this occur, or what were the reasons for this? [Write in response]

11. What is your preferred house size? (For reference, your average single-family home in Missouri is about 1,800 square feet with 3-4 bedrooms. The average one-bedroom apartment is about 800 square feet.)

- Under 400 sq. ft. (average tiny home)
- 401 - 800 sq. ft.
- 801 - 1,000 sq. ft.
- 1,001 - 1,500 sq. ft.
- 1,501 - 2,000 sq. ft.
- 2,001 - 2,500 sq. ft.
- Over 2,501 sq. ft.

12. What types of housing do you believe are most needed or would be most beneficial for the future growth of Buffalo, MO? (Select all that apply)

- Single-family detached homes (traditional)
- Single-family attached homes (townhomes or duplexes)
- Multi-family housing (apartments with 3 or more units)
- Senior/Assisted living housing (could be apartments, duplexes, or specialized units)
- Affordable housing (low-income housing options)
- Essential-worker housing (teachers, law enforcement, fire fighters, etc.)
- Mixed-use developments (combined residential and commercial spaces, side-by-side or vertical)

## Land Use & Development

13. What size do you envision the City of Buffalo community to be in 20 years?
- Stay the same as it is now, no change
  - Grow slightly, with a few more people moving in
  - Grow moderately, with more families and businesses moving in
  - Grow significantly, becoming a larger and bustling community
  - Shrink slightly, with some people moving away
  - Shrink moderately, with a decrease in population and businesses
  - Shrink significantly, becoming a smaller and quieter community
  - Not sure yet, still deciding
14. Over the next 20 years, how would you prefer the city to evolve in terms of building and development trends, including the placement and heights of buildings?
- Remain the same (little to no change)
  - Grow outward (expand city limits into rural, undeveloped areas)
  - Grow inward (develop vacant or rehabilitate existing properties)
  - Grow upward (increase density in existing neighborhoods and along major roads)
15. In your opinion, where would Buffalo, MO benefit most by strategically growing? (Please choose one direction or area.)
- West on Highway 32
  - East on Highway 32
  - North on Highway 65
  - South on Highway 65
  - No preference
16. For the direction you selected in the previous question, what types of services and businesses do you think should be prioritized for development in that area? (Select up to 5)
- Grocery Stores (Fresh food, essentials, local produce)
  - Restaurants and Cafes (Dine-in, local eateries, coffee shops)
  - Fast-food/Quick Service Restaurants (Drive-thru, fast casual dining)
  - Retail Stores (Clothing, home goods, department stores)
  - Health and Wellness Services (Gyms, yoga studios, spas, massage therapy)
  - Financial Services (Banks, credit unions, insurance offices)
  - Childcare Services (Daycare centers, after-school programs, babysitting services)
  - Medical Services (Primary care, dental offices, pharmacies)
  - Pet Services (Pet grooming, pet stores, boarding services)
  - Entertainment and Recreation (Movie theaters, bowling alleys, amusement centers)
  - Personal Services (Salons, dry cleaners, tailoring, car washes)
  - Home Improvement and Repair Services (Contractors, appliance repair, landscaping)
  - Transportation Services (Car rentals, ride-sharing, taxi services)
  - Technology and Electronics Stores (Phone shops, computer repair, gaming)
  - Arts and Culture Venues (Art galleries, performance spaces, museums)
  - Lodging/Accommodation (Hotels, motels, Airbnb-style rentals)
  - Public Services (Community centers, libraries, public transportation hubs)
  - Other [Write-in response]

## Community Services and Parks

17. Which community facilities and services do you think should be prioritized for improvement? (With the highest at the top and lowest at the bottom)

- Public library and public school services
- Parks and recreation facilities
- Community center accessibility
- Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services
- Public health and social services
- Public transportation options
- Broadband and internet services
- Road and street maintenance
- Sidewalks and pedestrian paths
- Water and sewer systems

18. Please indicate your satisfaction with each aspect of **Buffalo's infrastructure** by selecting a point value from 5 -1. A higher score reflects a more positive rating.

<b>Infrastructure Aspect</b>	1 – Very Poor	2 - Poor	3 - Average	4 - Good	5 - Excellent
<i>Road quality and maintenance</i>					
<i>Sidewalks and pedestrian paths</i>					
<i>Public transportation availability</i>					
<i>Sewer and wastewater systems</i>					
<i>Stormwater and drainage systems</i>					
<i>Internet/broadband access</i>					
<i>Public lighting and streetlights</i>					
<i>Parks and recreation facilities</i>					

19. How often do you use Buffalo's parks and recreational facilities?

- Daily
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- A couple of times a month
- Rarely
- Never

20. When you visit Buffalo's parks and recreational facilities, what time of day do you most commonly visit?

- Morning (6 AM - 11 AM)
- Midday (11 AM - 2 PM)
- Afternoon (2 PM - 5 PM)
- Evening (5 PM - 8 PM)
- Night (8 PM - 11 PM)
- I do not visit regularly

21. If a trail/sidewalk connected your residence to the following destinations; how likely would you be to walk or bike?

<b>Destination</b>	<b>5 Points</b>	<b>4 Points</b>	<b>3 Points</b>	<b>2 Points</b>	<b>1 Points</b>
<i>School</i>					
<i>Work</i>					
<i>Parks</i>					
<i>Grocery store</i>					
<i>Convenience store</i>					
<i>Library</i>					
<i>Downtown</i>					
<i>Entertainment and dining</i>					
<i>Neighboring subdivisions</i>					

22. What would improve your experience at Buffalo’s parks and recreational facilities? (Select all that apply)

- Cleanliness and maintenance
- More shaded areas
- Updated equipment (e.g., for playgrounds, fitness areas)
- More safety features (lighting, emergency stations)
- Additional parks
- Additional trails
- Community recreational facility
- Dog parks
- Picnic areas
- Community gardens
- Bicycle racks
- Seating
- Directional/wayfinding signage
- Accessibility and inclusive equipment for disabled

23. Would you support increased taxes or funding mechanisms for the maintenance and improvement of the public park amenities?

- Yes
- No

24. Would you be willing to support the city providing matching funds for grants to improve or develop additional parks, trails, or amenities?

- Yes
- No

25. Would you support dedicated tax to support and expand the Buffalo Fire Department and other emergency services?

- Yes
- No

26. Would you support more restrictive ordinances regarding tethering pets in front yards adjacent to the street or sidewalk.

- Yes
- No

## Transportation

27. Which of the following transportation concerns do you have in specific areas of Buffalo?

- Potholes or road damage
- Lack of pedestrian crossings
- Inadequate signage or traffic signals
- Traffic congestion
- Insufficient street lighting
- Unsafe intersections

28. Please list any **specific streets or areas** within Buffalo where you encounter issues related to transportation. Be as detailed as possible, describing why you are dissatisfied.

To help guide your response, consider some of the following ideas: "improved sidewalks on [specific street]" or "sidewalks that connect to parks/lake." or "morning congestion at the intersection of [street names]. [Write-in response below]

29. How would you rate the usability and accessibility of **sidewalks** in Buffalo for the following purposes?

	No Sidewalk	Not useable	Somewhat useable	Very useable
<i>Work</i>				
<i>School</i>				
<i>Store or restaurant</i>				
<i>Park or recreation area</i>				



30. Do you feel that the sidewalks in Buffalo are **wide enough and safe for** the following?

<b>Type</b>	Yes	No	No sidewalk	Not Applicable
<i>Walking side-by-side</i>				
<i>Strollers</i>				
<i>Wheelchair</i>				
<i>Bicycle</i>				
<i>Visibility (adequate lighting)</i>				

31. Are there specific areas or streets within Buffalo that you believe would benefit from the addition or improvement of sidewalks? (Please specify locations to the best of your ability.)

## Downtown Business District

32. In addition to outward growth in the previous section, how important do you feel it is to focus on the **infill** or **redevelopment** of downtown Buffalo, MO?

- **Very important** (We should prioritize revitalizing and making better use of existing spaces in the downtown area before expanding outward.)
- **Somewhat important** (A balance between downtown revitalization and outward growth is ideal.)
- **Not very important** (We should focus more on expanding outward rather than redeveloping downtown.)
- **Not important at all** (I don't believe we need to focus on infill or redevelopment of downtown.)

33. If you feel that **infill** or **redevelopment** of downtown Buffalo **is important**, what types of projects or improvements do you think should be prioritized?

- Historic building preservation, renovation, and maintaining aesthetic continuity (Ensuring that new developments or renovations respect the architectural style and character of existing historic buildings or materials)
- New commercial spaces (retail, restaurants, etc.)
- Residential spaces (apartments, townhomes, etc.)
- Green spaces or landscaping
- Streetscape improvements (sidewalks, lighting, etc.)
- Parking and transportation improvements
- Cultural or community spaces (art galleries, performance venues, etc.)
- Mixed-use developments (residential and commercial in the same building or complex)
- Other (please specify):

34. Rate the condition of the storefront/building facades in the Downtown area?
- **Very poor** (Grime, soot, or graffiti on buildings; facade in poor condition; Awnings or signs are ripped and/or in state of disrepair)
  - **Poor** (Some grime on buildings, façade in okay condition: dirty signage/awnings)
  - **Good** (Buildings are in good condition but needs minor alterations; the building facades are clean and in good condition but needs sticker/graffiti removal)
  - **Very good** (Façade is in good condition; Windows are clean; No graffiti or disruptions; Little or no grime)
35. Which types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in downtown Buffalo?  
(Select all that apply)
- Restaurants or cafes
  - Retail shops
  - Grocery stores or specialty food shops
  - Art galleries or cultural venues
  - Fitness or wellness centers
  - Professional services (e.g., financial offices, law firms)
  - Entertainment (e.g., theaters, event venues, etc.)
  - Health services (e.g., clinics, pharmacies)
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Community

36. Please briefly describe what you enjoy most about City of Buffalo. [write in response]
37. If you could make sure one thing **stayed** the same for your community over the next 20 years, what would it be? [write in response]
38. If you could **change** one thing about your community over the next 20 years, what would it be? [write in response]
39. Do you have any other comments and suggestions?

***Thank you for completing the City of Buffalo Community Survey! Your input is very important. Please stay active and participate in future surveys and public engagement meetings. To stay involved please contact the city for updates or the Project Manager.***

**End of Survey**

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