

# Appendix 1A

## Community Profile

Engagement: Kick-Off And Online

25 pages

# General Comments

## Open House, September 19, 2016

- Brookview complex is a world-class! Amenity – thanks for its renewal – esp paired w/ SLP Rec for us swimmers and skaters
- One idea I have to increase & encourage people to shop at local businesses is to implement a “rewards” or “points” type card like businesses use to keep customers coming back to their stores eg. Super America Rewards Card, Target Red Card, etc. Participating businesses could also receive perks like lower taxes or rebates.
- GV needs improved limits on cutting down legacy & significant trees, even better than what was approved last year! We should be leaders – as a “Tree City” – not just “even” to what other cities do!
- We also need limits on single-family housing being used for rental. That changes the housing quality & property tax value in a neighborhood, to have too many rental properties!
- Stop building so much housing. It takes 15 minutes to go 3 blocks between 394 and Glenwood. Ridiculous!
- Use green space (Parks!) for greater diversity in plantings. Less grass and instead plant native plantings. To maintain these areas spend more money on staff – Hire people!
- Bike land & sidewalk needed on most westward Golden Valley Rd. (Nat. Camera is there) then going north on Mendelssohn Ave N. Added housing construction there/population density makes this a priority one need.
- Missing sidewalk (no safe biking) travel links at
  - Mallard Creek Apartments going east on GV Road (sidewalk leads into parking lot)
  - At Perkins Restaurant
  - Brookview Park – going south on Winnetka Ave N sidewalk (bike trail sort of) dead-ends into parking lot (dangerous for pedestrians & bikers) reappears later – no markings signage to follow
- I’m concerned that GV is starting to make lot sizes smaller in plots west of Noble.
- Golden Valley was a leader in the 1960’s and ‘70’s in green spaces and in preserving same. We are losing that! Bring back a strong commitment to GREEN SPACE... As high as to development!!!
- Great set up & presentation of plan areas! Well done!
- More info in newsletter about CFL-Mercury bulbs:
  - Where to recycling – various locations
  - Education/workshops on recycling
  - Dangers of CFL-Mercury bulbs
  - Breakage
  - Need for recycling
  - Broken bulbs – carefully handling

- Love the planning sessions. I would love to see water fountains/art that is meant to be climbed on by children in town squares. Encourage people to get out and interact with one another! 😊
- The Park Improvements have large been buildings - more emphasis has to be in adding more green spaces, revitalizing aging tree population. The “green” is what brings people to Golden Valley - not the industrial park developments.
- The sidewalk/bikepath between 55 & Glenwood has a dramatic increase in traffic. There needs to be a separation noted on this path between pedestrian traffic and bikes.
- Also, a future idea is to add an overpass for bikers to cross Glenwood-Wirth intersection. Huge traffic volume & risk of accidents.
- Rain gardens - good investment in H2O quality (Como Lake - good example)
- Wirth Lake invasive plants need to work on - this has been deteriorating for several years - investment needs to be considered.
- Very important meeting to gather ideas for moving into the future.
- We have a pond (live on Georgia Ave N near Westchester). We have a lovely pond - used to have more water 25 years ago. Some neighbors use herbicides and pesticides - it touches a large area - the green ugly scum covers the water each summer and early fall. Wish for a way to alert people to the reasons for it. My husband pulls out buckthorn by hand in the spring when the ground is wet so gets the roots without using Roundup. I clean the bars on the water drainage (catch basins often). Could use help organizing the tasks.
- We need a vision for north/south routes and safety for crossing major traffic roads like Hwy 55! It's time for a progressive vision where connections over/under non-grade routes to enhance community and economic development.
- Bring more arts activities into the city i.e. performing, visual, etc. Consider an Arts Center similar to what Hopkins has developed and what it has done for that city.
- Specific: Enhance bike & pedestrian access to west side of Winnetka by creating curb cut at NW corner of Western & Winnetka, so it is quicker to access trail to bridge over Hwy 55. Currently, one has to walk a block to access park trail at Brookview. General: Nice to see a plan for bikes & pedestrians. Good work!
- 1. Educate people about alternatives to lawn chemicals please! Proven carcinogens. 2. Is there a way to use rainwater for watering lawns/sprinklers vs. using city water? Any methods for rainwater collection for this? 3. This walking path (along Minnaqua Pond near Westbend and Scott) has been under water or very muddy all summer - could it be a raised boardwalk? (less important but it sure would be nice!)

# Poster Summaries:

## Open House, September 19, 2016

### Land Use

- Total stickers = 184
- Most stickers = “Arrange land uses to minimize conflicts, create buffers between residential and commercial or industrial areas” (27)
- Least stickers = “Provide a variety of housing options to work at any stage of life” (12)

Goals	Sticker Count
Plan for active living to improve community health	14
Protect the environment with sustainable land use patterns and policies	19
Develop commercial corridors and a recognizable town center	23
Integrate alternative modes of transportation throughout the city	23
Provide a variety of housing options to work at any stage of life	12
Preserve elementary schools, employment centers, and open space	13
Implement multi-use areas	15
Respect traditional neighborhoods	18
Arrange land uses to minimize conflicts, create buffers between residential and commercial or industrial areas	27
Preserve and enhance the natural environment; reduce air pollution	19
<b>Other</b>	
<i>“Continue to fine-tune and improve the ordinances for subdivisions and construction to preserve neighborhood character and trees/green space”</i>	1

# 2040 Comp Plan

## Survey Responses

<b>List three words you feel best describe Golden Valley. (Paper Responses)</b>	
Green, classic, scenic	Green, manageable, road-oriented
Good location, friendly, convenient shopping	Good schools -- community, parks
Parks, old housing	Quiet, friendly, good food
Has a lot of parks, good family neighborhoods, community	Nature, open, progressive
Close to urban	Trees, sunset, great people
Potential	Location, divided (by highways & school districts), parks (within walking distance)
Green ("tree city"; good landscaping, big yards), manageable (in size, getting around, access to amenities), residential (single-family dominating, not huge commercial, no big box!)	

<b>List three words you feel best describe Golden Valley. (Post-It Responses)</b>	
Neighborhood, friendly, green	Centralized, parks, quiet
Near the action	A sylvan jewel, most beautiful suburb
Accessible, inviting, poised for positivity	So much potential, beautiful streets, trees
Convenient, quiet, somewhat resistant to change	Good, awesome, nice

<b>List three words you feel best describe Golden Valley. (Online Responses)</b>	
Friendly, Happy, Peaceful	Friendly, beautiful, safe
green, thinks too small, neighborhoods	Suburban Wirth Parkway
Transitioning, Aesthetic, Tolerant	Close, Comfortable, Green
Close to everything.	Safe, clean, quiet.
Families, Neighborhoods, Friendly	Clean Safe First ring suburb
Small Homey Old-fashioned	Safe, accessible, welcoming
there are more than 3 words: great central location safe beautiful nice standard of living	there are more than 3 words: great central location safe beautiful nice standard of living
Small Homey Old-fashioned	Beautiful, convenient, transforming
Green Clean Safe	conservative urban planning
quiet, safe, spacious	Apartments---storage lockers----re-zoning
Quiet, safe, green	Transitioning Central Green
Beautiful Great location	comfortable, green, outdated
Inclusive, Friendly, Growing	Lush, Pedestrian-Unfriendly, Lack of Identity
Neighborhood Safe Green	Bucolic, Quiet, Friendly
Inclusion-oriented, progressive, gay	convenient, spacious,
Safe,nice place to live, close knit community	Convenient, Classic, Diverse
Next to Minneapolis	well maintained, convenient, accessible
Close to Minneapolis	Green prosperous hidden

Urban-suburban. Accessible. Affordable.	Fairly quiet Rather antisocial No sidewalks
Bucolic, Beautiful, Serene	trees, neighbors, proximity (to downtown)
Residential, oasis, relaxed	Unique Rigid
Central, beautiful, right-sized	Family-friendly Parks Location
pretty, safe, inclusive	clean, parks, drive-through
Convenient, homey, not over-developed.	wildlife, urban, busy
Green, Safe, unhurried	parkways trees parks
Peaceful, Accessible, Uncluttered	green, quiet, convenient
Quiet suburban private	Quiet, diverse, safe.
Suburb, General Mills, Low Density	Detached, Sprawling, Lagging
Forward-thinking, appreciative of the past, inclusive	Diversity, progressive values, green spaces
Close, Quiet, Divided	
Use to be QUIET, use to be UNCONGESTED, use to be more GREEN.	Stability... of housing values Safety... when walking the neighborhood
Convenient, close-knit, welcoming	clean, central, friendly
green, has character	

<b>What do you value most about Golden Valley? (Paper Responses)</b>	
Lots of park space, old/large trees, not too dense, clean	It has retained its "value" and is convenient location wise in the Twin Cities.
Potential	Size and housing character
Parks, close to Minneapolis, Starbucks	Parks, schools
How close it is to Downtown and the western suburbs. Walkable to coffee shops	Comfortable yet near inner city; ie just today I drove 10 min to tutor North Minneapolis students
Location to city	The people -- the interest in gardens
Political values	
Caring community, awesome location, being close to neighborhood parks, ease of parking (free) at restaurants, shopping & parks, 15 min to Lake Minnetonka or Lake Calhoun, or downtown Mpls, Lions, Brookview are great parks, zipline @ Wildwood Park very cool!	Above, and large lots, residential feel, transparency in government, progressive thinking

<b>What do you value most about Golden Valley? (Post-It Responses)</b>	
Continued progress in creating diverse housing	Not let Hwy 55 divide us!
Increased density without losing green space	Make sure the play equipment is safe to play on
North south bike and ped trails	More welcoming to people of other cultures
Safe connectivity by foot, bike, wheelchair to amenities from all neighborhoods	

<b>What do you value most about Golden Valley? (Online Responses)</b>	
The friendly neighborhoods and community feeling.	Respectful Neighbors, City Services, and appearance of the City
location	Location Generous lots Low crime
Close to everything.	Location
safety	Quiet, safe, green
Wirth Parkway	Nice, small community.
Preserving and maintaining good neighborhoods; quiet, safe and clean streets; large lots close to the city.	The number of parks, the opportunity to be close to downtown but still in a neighborhood, the safe neighborhoods.
Quiet neighborhoods, safe streets, sense of community.	great central location safe nice clean neighborhoods
Great parks, neighborhoods, close to Downtown.	Nice, small community.
The location, we have had an excellent experience with the Robbinsdale school district, we love the Nature Area behind General Mills. The neighborhoods are lovely and well-maintained.	I value the parks and the fact that neighbors take pride in the community and want to keep the city clean and safe. Golden Valley is very family friendly with most families staying for decades, which provides a strong community connection.
How close it is to the city, that I can run into people I actually know at stores, that it is the gayest suburb of the Twin Cities, and how the progressives seem to far outweigh the conservatives!	The established but unique neighborhoods; convenient location (proximity to Mpls; proximity to Mpls Parkway); well kept GV parks; GV trails and green spaces.
Do a great job on keep riff raff out,keeping land values up	My neighbors and my neighborhood. Nearness to downtown Mpls with out BEING mpls.
My husband and I just moved to Golden Valley in May 2015 after almost 8 years living in the North Loop in Minneapolis. There were three key factors that kept us coming back to look at Golden Valley in our search to buy a house: 1. Old/established neighborhoods with big trees. It doesn't look like a newer development, and that is a good thing. The large yards, unique architecture, and variety of large trees and greenery made us fall in love. 2. It was a hard choice to leave life downtown. Moving to Golden Valley is, I believe, the closest suburb to the city! It's so easy and fast to get downtown for work, restaurants, bars, sports, and everything else we love about Minneapolis. 3. The community is really growing younger. I did a ton of research about the city before we committed and was excited to see that they city is actually getting younger as the city "turns over" to the next generation. We are hoping to have kids, and are happy to know that we are going to have many other young families in our town to raise a family with.	Our wonderful LACK of cultural/ethnic diversity... which provides housing price stability, and safety for its citizens. We just read the Nov/Dec 2016 issue of GV City News regarding Population Diversity and it sent chills down our backs. You mentioned that you had some residents express a desire for more [ethnic] diversity, so some of your idealistic, millennial-aged liberalist, do-gooder staffers must went off the deep end thinking that we would welcome more people of color, muslims, etc into GV, and bring with them a small percentage of ISIS-wannabes and drug dealers.. What is really sad is that you would classify anyone who says the above as a racist... thus keeping us from disclosing our identity for fear of protests in front of our home, threats, vandalism, etc. There are many, many who feel the same way I do, but they finally had a chance of expressing themselves via voting for Trump. You better realize this fact when you are up for reelection.

close proximity of natural environments	The culture
Safe and clean .....for now!!!!	Location to Minneapolis
Proximity to downtown. Central location within Twin Cities. Mature neighborhoods and quiet streets. Lots of parks.	Wooded lots, Rolling hills, Limited street lights, Nature parks (Eloise Butler, Quaking Bog, etc), Proximity to downtown Minneapolis, Proximity to lakes, Wonderful people, Wonderful city hall
a suburban atmosphere with close proximity to Downtown and Uptown	Parks, greenspace, proximity to Minneapolis, Down in the Valley!
Quality homes, diverse, location, convenience	
Close to urban areas, but more space available for a large famil	Neighbors Parks and green space Robbinsdale Area Schools
Access to everything happening in the Twin Cities.	close to mpls strong property values large corporate tax base
Convenience to everything	Green spaces
the above, plus proximity to downtown	Meadowbrook school. Parks. Winding streets
That it is so residential and integrated with nature, yet so close to the city. I like that the downtown has smaller shops with almost everything you need and resists becoming a mega-mall. The schools are good.	I've lived in GV since 1970 and while I've had some battles with the city of streets and housing, I've found there is respect for diverse opinions. You win some, you lose some, but you're usually not totally isgnored.
spacious and tree-filled neighborhoods	location, safety
I like: the diversity of homes, family friendliness, the space to have yards and gardens, sense of history and unique nature of homes. I love how close it is to downtown and other urban areas. I love the annual GV garden club sale at Brookview park.	I love all the green space available in Golden Valley- most weekends you can find me and my family in Theodore Wirth enjoying the park. We live so close to the urban area of Minneapolis yet we have all this green space available! It really seems like the best of both worlds.
The terrific location and my great neighborhood.	My neighbors.
The feeling of the country, with the large home lots that have majestic trees and open spaces. Speaking specifically of the North Tyrol neighborhood. The abundant wildlife seen daily on walks: deer, turkeys and foxes.	Location. Proximity to Downtown Minneapolis, West End, Shoppes at Arbor Lakes, Minnetonka, Edina, etc. Strong churches such as Calvary Lutheran or Good Shepherd. Quaintness of a suburban community without the gridlock and hassles of some suburban locations.
theodore worth park closeness to the city	progressive, open-minded residents
proximity to city and parks	centrally located, smallish
Connectedness to downtown Minneapolis.	Proximity to Minneapolis, Safety
Close Proximity to everywhere, Mostly Clean.	Nearness to downtown with some mass transit options Has historically had green spaces
I first moved to Golden Valley because it had the location of St. Louis Park but was a lot less boring ;) There is diversity in the population and in the architecture, and theo wirth park is amazing. There is also more nature and green areas to walk in, which is crucial for my well-being. I liked that it has a small town feel and many kinds of people live there.	It feels like a small town. There is a sense of pride and a strong sense of community living in Golden Valley. We love being so close to downtown as well as to trails and bike paths and lead us to adventures beyond Golden Valley.

<p>It's convenience to Minneapolis. We afford sizeable lots and living spaces that are not available inside the city, yet we are close to downtown work and events</p>	<p>I love getting up in the morning to get the paper and being able to see the stars, especially this time of year when Orion is just peaking above the horizon. In our neighborhood, we do not have the garish lights that are in other parts of the city. Instead we have lanterns that put out sufficient light for seeing people in the street and the stars. It's actually been proven to be safer to have light which is not so bright because you can see people even if they are not in the direct light of the lantern. Check out the book "The End of Night". I believe the parents of the author are Golden Valley residents.</p>
--	--

<p align="center"><b>What important changes does Golden Valley need to make in the next 10 years? In the next 20 years? (Paper Responses)</b></p>	
<p>I would like to see a citywide transportation system (renewable) that would connect the new community center, local businesses, parks, residential</p>	<p>Manage to keep suburban while growing more urban in certain areas. Ensure good public transportation in higher density areas. Park and rides would increase public transit.</p>
<p>Upgrade properties that show their 'age' too much. Bring businesses into empty locations or change the structure. Add a pool and/or splash pad to parks.</p>	<p>Wish the light rail did not go thru; develop new housing - requirement to use long term materials to meet the need to come for future with refugees from climate change</p>
<p>Remove old housing, small bus service in residential areas; don't let buildings sit empty (GV Bowling was empty for XX years)</p>	<p>Need to focus on climate change and how the City can deal with major storms - water (rain) and snow</p>
<p>Remove old houses, provide more senior living housing</p>	<p>Just today 3 drivers -- 2 cars; extend car2go, hourcar, nice ride MN network into GV</p>
<p>Unified school district, unified garbage collection</p>	<p>Nothing</p>
<p>Better pedestrian and multi-modal connection</p>	<p>Affordable housing especially near light rail</p>
<p>More work to rid land of invasive species, more bike transportation options with air pumps at strategic places</p>	<p>Work on improvements to ordinances for development to preserve green space, lot size, neighborhood character, etc. Limit subdivisions! They are ruining neighborhoods!</p>

<p align="center"><b>What important changes does Golden Valley need to make in the next 10 years? In the next 20 years? (Post-It Responses)</b></p>	
<p>Continued progress in creating diverse housing</p>	<p>Embrace a true downtown</p>
<p>Increased density without losing green space</p>	<p>Vibrant downtown!</p>
<p>North south bike and ped trails</p>	<p>Create a more central downtown</p>
<p>Not let Hwy 55 divide us!</p>	<p>A fun splash pad for little kids</p>
<p>Make sure the play equipment is safe to play on</p>	<p>Diversity</p>
<p>Safe connectivity by foot, bike, wheelchair to amenities from all neighborhoods</p>	<p>Balance transitions and density with retaining what we love about GV</p>
<p>More welcoming to people of other cultures</p>	<p>Stockman Park baseball field repairment</p>

Transit friendly; more emphasis on bike and pedestrian access	Push people to downtown - meaning traffic and daily errands
More downtown mixed use dev	Splash pad in town square!
Enhance town square à places for kids to climb on and play	Update laws to be in line with new needs; public transit, renewable energy for homes, conservation

**What important changes does Golden Valley need to make in the next 10 years?  
In the next 20 years? (Online Responses)**

We need more senior housing. A lot of us would like to stay in the area when we can no longer remain in our homes. It would be nice to have restaurants and shops within walking or biking distance.	The road map was hard to fill out. an indoor walking track or larger / better community center more park rec/ fitness activities don't build more large houses and subdivide lots don't keep building in our open spaces
Add more sidewalks. Go through and make sure that there are traffic restrictions where they are needed in all communities.	Public swimming pool. More tree lined streets, like St, Louis Park. Modernise Golden Valley Shopping Center.
- better connections across busy streets - re-building of the ped bridge across 55 as a integrated part of the park system and downtown master plan (having a master plan would help) - get ready for light rail for real - get the development engines started for station area transformation - get as serious about buckthorn eradication as we are about cutting down ash trees. make it a strategic priority, fund it, get a program going, just like the street reconstruction - it's woodland reclamation. - Make kayaking down bassett creek a more encouraged park and rec activity. Or boat rentals on the lakes.	10 years -How to keep GV a suburban community versus an extension of the Minneapolis. Lack of open space forces City to rely on multi-family housing and transitory residents which destabilizes the community, increases crime and traffic loads. 20-years - How to keep the tax burden from the City, State and County at a level where housing stays affordable for new families that will move into the city and stay. The inefficient transit options forced on the city by the Met Council does not benefit the city as a large majority of people still have to drive to get to work.
Careful planning regarding strip malls. Limit overbuilding of single family homes Preservation of green space	World class Community Center, better Park & Rec programs, Christmas Lights and decorations around the Holiday season.
Preserve good neighborhoods by encouraging upgrades and maintenance to the existing housing stock while keeping out low-quality development; increase funding the pavement rehabilitation program and ice & snow removal (my family & my neighbors would happily pay more property taxes to support this); further encourage walkability by developing sidewalks on primary residential streets as they're replaced such as Douglas, Mendelssohn, etc.	Don't sacrifice housing quality for the sake of affordability; there are too many section 8 developments and rentals already. Making housing more "affordable" only hurts homeowners' investments in their property by decreasing property values of households who already live and vote here. Work to prevent owner-occupied homes from becoming rentals and enforce inspections on all properties.
Work toward better mass transit options, create affordable housing opportunities, and grow industrial/commercial tax base.	Picking up compost/organics recycling like other neighboring cities, ST.L.P., Mpls, etc... Hopefully much sooner then the next 10 yrs.
Make housing more affordable for low income families so that they can live in a safer community.	Improve traffic flow on Winnetka and poor water drainage is ruining the road

<p>I think Golden Valley needs to work to retain its community spirit. A lot of the changes have to do with keeping what we have and not rushing toward more development -- more apartments, city sidewalk, garish lights, etc. It would be better to invest in little things that bring people together -- programs at the library, safety camp, the ice cream social, coffee with a cop, the arts &amp; music festival, concerts in the park, etc. My kids grew up with Mary Steinbicker and all are now avid readers. They loved to go to the library and pick out books. They loved the reading area just for kids. They loved having an adult other than their parents take interest in them. It's important to look not just at what should change but also at what should not change</p>	<p>PARKS!!!! The neighborhood parks are lack-luster when compared to the nearby New Hope and Crystal parks (with the exception of Brookview and Lions). We moved from Crystal and were in walking distance of 3+ parks that were appealing to kids from 1 year-middle school. Our two closest parks in GV have less equipment and less appeal to kids of all ages. The two big parks are great, I'm sure, but I also want to be able to enjoy the parks that are walkable to us. Other things to consider, in the realm of business development-- a grocery store? A coffee place in the NW area of the city (maybe even with a drive-thru). Mighty Tidy day - arrange trucks to haul items from peoples yards instead of a drop site (like New Hope and Crystal)</p>
<p>Continue work on best use of resources (especially water and green space) in view of accelerating climate change. Encourage tree-planting. Discourage use of chemical herbicides and pesticides. Prepare for light-rail. Prepare for aging-in-place population. Encourage young families. PERHAPS think about "structured garbage collection", to avoid wear-and-tear on streets and much additional racket (as long as "my favorite garbage hauler" can bid on a portion of the city). (This worked just fine in Minneapolis, where I lived for over 25 years. Also, in Minneapolis, if we recycled, we got a REDUCTION on our garbage bill.)</p>	<p>I would really like the city to look into composting, possibly partnering with Minneapolis if it is not possible for our city to run their own composting program. I feel greener living and sustainability is very important right now. I would also like to see Golden Valley and the surrounding communities be connected to downtown Minneapolis through the light-rail system. And I would love to see more local, small businesses enter the community varying from the restaurant industry to retail.</p>
<p>Embrace diversity, density, and changing demographics. I would also love to see Golden Valley embrace a more true downtown location or main street for city gathering and events. Through the next 20 years, Golden Valley should build up existing locations and keep the many open spaces and parks empty.</p>	<p>Continue to improve the core "village" with more local shops, cafes and a small/med grocery. Assure we maintain the green space, mature trees, parks and spacious yards. Improve safe and easy pedestrian and bicycle traffic crossings on busy streets.</p>
<p>Update infrastructure where necessary without losing the mid century charm the city was built on. Many new home owners seek out Golden Valley for its mid century homes and it would be a shame if the government buildings didn't keep that same charm.</p>	<p>Light rail, bike paths, and other means for people to get around without a car. This also could be decentralization of shops and restaurants. Have smaller local pockets of small businesses, restaurants, and bars. A brewery or two. Sidewalks everywhere. More age, race, and socio-economic diversity.</p>
<p>Protect our open and green space ALWAYS. Upgrade infrastructure such as water mains etc. City wide free internet.</p>	<p>Creating, a more cohesive, walkable, contemporary town center. "There is no 'there' there".</p>

<p>Infrastructure! Let's keep the charm of an established community but invest wisely in updating existing roads, utilities, etc. adding curbs and sidewalks to foster the sense of community, and providing conveniences for the new generations. Demographic studies show the trend toward urban areas-it's no longer as appealing to live in a far-flung suburb. Let's develop and enhance modern conveniences to make Golden Valley the very best suburb in the metro!</p>	<p>put the traffic lanes back on Winnetka and take out the bike lanes that are not being utilized. the heavy traffic makes it very difficult to turn into my driveway and I often find myself playing chicken with oncoming traffic in the passing lane. There are too many driveways and turnoffs and buses on Winnetka and people do not know how to use the passing lane. and traffic backup so I have to wait more than 5 minutes to turn out of my driveway.</p>
<p>More connections with the city, improved bike paths and bikeways. Find ways to develop community more. Really would like a more urban feel - where there is more involvement from people and more engagement.</p>	<p>Figuring out what to do about the potential for flooding in homes built on or near water ways. Balancing growth and preservation of its quiet, calm personality</p>
<p>Slow down on all these new apartments, SHEP!!!!!!! Let Golden valley develop itself without interference from Met Council and County Comissioners , SHEP !!!!!!! STOP political pressure and favors SHEP !!!!!!!</p>	<p>The city has to take advantage of its inner ring status and carefully develop the Glenwood corridor to reflect the diversity of the neighborhood and the closeness to the heart of the Twin Cities.</p>
<p>not overbuilding apartments, strive to be pedestrian/cycling friendly</p>	<p>Provide housing and care for senior citizens and improve more places for family recreation</p>
<p>Bicycle and pedestrian friendly, slow down traffic especially on Glenwood. Local Grocery Store (Wedge Coop store please!). Development along 394 in a good way. Avoiding cookie-cutter redevelopments and tear downs. (avoid looking like Plymouth). Wetland, rainwater management. More friendly police detectives. Invest in training and outreach to ensure that our local police treat people with dignity and calmness. I want to feel proud of my police department. Do police all live in Golden Valley? Dog Park and fitness center so I don't have to pay Lifetime \$200/month. Develop Golden Valley Shopping Center into something residents want. Start a shop local Golden Valley promotion with coupons. Help Breck get better road access so they can grow and traffic flows better on Glenwood. More locally owned businesses like Good Day, Patina, Kuipers.</p>	<p>1 year: move location of farmers market to Lions Club Park or Brookview Park so more neighbors can walk to it or spend more time. Promote Lions Club Park and other areas to downtown realtors, who can help steer downtown families looking to move but stay close to downtown MPLS. Encourage builders to buy and renovate or tear down. Be selective about businesses coming to the area. Attract local chefs (e.g Paul Berglund) to open a unique, smaller restaurants. 10 years: improve bike trails from Lions Clib Park to other areas of Golddn Valley. Make the city more walkable and bikeable. Build an outdoor public swimming pool. Enhance sidewalks and landscaping on and around parks. Fix awkward intersections (e.g., turning right to Olson Memorial from Glenwood). Promote the parks &amp; Hopkins Schools. 20 years: walkability and bikeability (connect parks). Hopefully more diverse ethnically and less economically.</p>
<p>Increase the replacement of old trees as soon as possible. (They are the city's hallmark.) Work harder to be welcoming to ethnic minorities. Ensure that new home construction has substantial property line setbacks.</p>	<p>Continue to preserve the wooded, quiet nature of the neighborhoods (I am thinking specifically of Tyrol Hills). We consider it a hidden gem and we LOVE living in Golden Valley.</p>

<p>Fairly quiet neighborhood with great turnover in the last year with high new expectations for unquestioning accommodation to those migrating from Edina, Wayzata, or other golden spots. Often they wish to rebuild large expansive homes with serviced golf course lawns by multiple lavish service companies. This adds to the growing toxicity of a wasteful neighborhood using toxic sprays and pellets that poison our animals and local waters (dead zones) and give all of us allergies and ill health. It also has meant continuing to use at least 10 different waste service companies occupying our roads 5 days a week with citywide heavy vehicles competing with our cars and pedestrians for our short transit needs. This has features of unsustainability of a global nature.</p>	<p>10 Years: 1. Bike lanes on Noble and Duluth would be great to increase safe bike access of many residents to Theo Wirth Parkway. It is a dangerous area to be biking up and down hills with so many blind corners on cross streets on the side walks. 2. How about community center with a pool for kids in the winter. 20 Years: School system can be small and of Golden Valley. We don't care for Robinsdale Schools and are using Hopkins. We live near Noble Elementary and are not happy with its performance so we cart our kid around. Some mapping and long-term planning could create a great small district.</p>
<p>Keeping up with eco-friendly policies. With the highways being so close, hopefully cars will be getting quieter and less polluting, and I'd like to see oil trains stop. Take good care of the parks.</p>	<p>upgrade old Golden Valley shopping center...need more variety of small shops. Make Golden Valley more of a destination location.</p>
<p>* I would like to see golden valley become more culturally diverse. It's very white. * I wish the more of the neighborhoods had sidewalks. It feels unsafe to walk with children and dogs with speedy drivers zipping through the streets. * It would be lovely to have a local, coffee shop like Bryn Mawr has and a unique non-chain restaurant or two. * Too many rules and regulations and fees around zoning and permits. Quite a hassle. It also seems like lighten up on rigidity of</p>	<p>With some increase in our population density, we need to maintain our green spaces, develop more bike throughways and public transit options, and perhaps traffic-calming measures on our busiest streets. I would also like to see some efforts to tie together the parts of our community that are separated by 394, 100, and highway 55. +C107:C114</p>
<p>I would love to see more of a downtown in Golden Valley and more local places to eat and shop. When I drive through Hopkins I enjoy their little downtown and wish we had something similar. Golden Valley largely feels like a drive-through community. If you don't stop to enjoy the park, there really isn't a reason to stop in Golden Valley. It would help to have more sidewalks we can use to walk places and to encourage more mixed-used spaces in strategic locations. For example, I frequently drive to Costco via Xenia Ave South. There are a few buildings there, but it strikes me that the area could be redeveloped to encourage housing, shopping, and restaurants- a northern version of the West End. It would also be great to get light rail access so that we can zip downtown without driving and if we could commute to work without the hassle of cars.</p>	<p>Limit high density housing developments. This includes multi family buildings like apartments and condos as well as close proximity housing. Maintain neighborhood lot sizes. Create more of a "Town Center". Redevelop the area around Winnetka and 55 from strip malls and parking lots to a more pedestrian friendly "downtown" feeling area. Connect this area to Brookview with a green bridge or terrace over Hwy 55. Create ample parking in hidden ramps to replace the sprawling surface lots. Attract anchor businesses including large office, grocery, retail, convenience to this new town center with tax incentives. Increase leisure opportunities. Attaching GV ski and bike trails to the new Theo Wirth development. Increase the navigability of Basset Creek water shed to kayaks and canoes and make clear launch areas.</p>

<p>PLEASE stop dividing home lots, and building ugly McMansions. Untangle the mess on Xenia, there are too many stoplights, too many businesses, reopen the through street that was there before, that used to go by the fire station. Require school children to take the bus to Meadowbrook and to Breck. If parents do not utilize this service, they should pay \$ for clogging the nearby streets, during times when school opens and closes.</p>	<p>1. KEEP the ethnic mix percentages as they are for the reasons described above. 2. Be very careful who we vote for in the next election of GV officials. We conservatives are watching you! 3. Be sure that we minimize the flow of immigrants/refugees into our neighborhoods... the forced mixing of diverse cultures with diametrically opposite vales is an invitation to the decline of our GV community. 4. Finally, get GV out of control of the Metropolitan Council.</p>
<p>model minneapolis goals for recycling, waste and composting goals, have composting removal too!</p>	<p>We should probably be more diverse, more openly accepting of diversity of color and income level.</p>
<p>I think the single most important change is that Golden Valley needs to become a leader in sustainable, environmentally sound development. We could lead the way in LEED-certified buildings, solar technology and so much more. We are known as an area that cares about green spaces, I hope we would embrace and adopt a mandate to become a leader in the area in green thinking.</p>	<p>Improve public transportation - GV is so close to downtown but requires a car to make it efficient. Help residents more easily connect with north loop / downtown culture and action. Make composting a city-wide option through garbage pickup. 30% of what's thrown into the garbage can be composted. The compost could help keep GV parks healthy or could be sold back to the community.</p>
<p>Work with Metro Transit to link the light rail in the east with frequent buses to get people to western Golden Valley. Develop housing near the light rail, aimed particularly at people downsizing but wanting to stay in GV (condos and town homes).</p>	<p>When building apartment and condo buildings can restaurants/retail be incorporated in the street level? Maintain park systems and green spaces- make sure they stick around. Solar energy community gardens or programs. Rain barrel program or incentives? Keep and increase public transportation and bike paths.</p>
<p>Investment in neighborhoods rather than business and real estate development. Change of city policy: welcoming of friendlier environmental practices: allowing limited bee-keeping (not business or industrial), greater attention paid to water purity in our streams, ponds, lakes, promoting rain gardens and native plantings, replacing ageing trees Greater investment made in bike paths - lanes, walking trails connecting neighborhoods. Consideration of code changes that allow for small businesses such as a cafe, or bookstore to be integrated into neighborhood settings. Limiting house sizes to avoid massive Woodbury-type of residences. Look to cities such as St. Louis Park, Minneapolis and Maplewood for urban policies that are more forward in thinking and support the public more than business / industry.</p>	<p>In an effort to remain competitive with other suburbs, Golden Valley MUST address education. There is a "great divide" at Hwy 55, with property values soaring and remodels taking place south of Hwy 55 (Hopkins school district) and north of Hwy 55 lagging behind. The Robbinsdale school district has a reputation (whether real or perceived) as not being of the same quality of other west and southwest metro school districts. Golden Valley needs to either work to change that reputation or consider moving on as this is holding back property values north of Hwy 55. Golden Valley should also look to encourage development beyond residential and office. Golden Valley should work to encourage commercial and hospitality development - especially restaurants and bars. Golden Valley is behind adjacent suburbs such as St. Louis Park in this regard.</p>

<p>Several things: (1) Make GV more walkable and bikeable. Enhance and expand trail systems and green spaces. (2) Plan / design (i.e., investment in public amenities, economic development/business courtship) in a manner that does not force residents to travel to the surrounding suburbs for things like outdoor pools, indoor playground centers, fitness gyms / athletic clubs, and dog parks. (3) While the demand for housing density will no doubt continue, approach the planning/design of multi-unit housing with special care, so it can be done in a manner that better reflects what has made Golden Valley so remarkable. (4) We must do something about that old original Golden Valley Shopping Center (Hwy 55 at Winnetka). It is the absolute eye sore and embarrassment of our City. The location is of course excellent and the business and retailers housed within are great, but it truly looks like a third rate hodge-podge strip mall from 1962. The architecture and facades are too incongruent to even call it "retro", so it's just something we all cringe at. I realize that it is privately owned, but perhaps yo ucould assemble or commission a task force to investigate strategies and incentives to get the owner to partner with GV to plan a transformation (planned in collaboration with the small business tenants, area residents, GV City Officials). There must be lessons and ideas from other communities that could help us make this much needed improvement to the center of GV.</p>	<p>STOP over developing our neighborhoods. Taking down a ranch style house to crowd in two multi-level unattractive houses, Overcrowding and building up more Condos causing over congestion that could have been green spaces is taking the GOLD out of Golden Valley! Caused by greedy over taxation and over spending of city hall! Restoring Basset Creek so that ALL of it is ABOVE ground and flowing the way it was 50 years ago and unpolluted with wildlife such as toads and crawfish.</p>
<p>Public pool and sauna.</p>	<p>More multi family housing safe walking</p>
<p>I can't think of any</p>	<p>More bike paths Lower taxes More urban</p>
<p>More hiking trails especially loops</p>	<p>more transportation options for local destinations</p>
<p>More flexibility on zoning requirements to allow for additional residential density and to keep people in their homes (i.e. additions, 3rd stall garages, accessory structures, etc). Community center should have been designed with more amenities (i.e. fitness center, rec rooms, etc.) Promote city has a great place to raise a family and try to attract families that may desire larger homes in nearby cities such as Plymouth, Maple Grove, etc.</p>	<p>Think bigger - Council thought small and had a can't-do attitude in regard to the community center and really missed an opportunity to put ourselves on the map and generate more revenue by drawing peopel into the area. Take better advantage of our location with regard to development of entertainment and other things to draw people here for our businesses.</p>

# Housing

- Total stickers = 176
- Most stickers = “Encourage energy efficiency and sustainable design” (39)
- Least stickers = “At least 10% of the housing designed and designated for seniors” (11)

Goals	Sticker Count
Strive for non-discrimination against anyone seeking housing	23
Ensure quality low and moderate-income options are available	28
Offer a variety of housing types and designs	31
Ensure at least 10% of the housing designed and designated for seniors	11 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How about 40%?</i></li> <li>• <i>Why only 10%?? Seems low, given demographics! (Sounds ageist!)</i></li> </ul>
Remove substandard housing that cannot be rehabilitated	35 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“What about encouraging rehab, instead of ‘removal’? Careful about what “is called” “substandard”! By what criteria? Maybe people just can’t afford to make improvements!</i></li> </ul>
Encourage energy efficiency and sustainable design	39
<b>Other</b>	
<i>“Creative housing options to include people with disabilities and others”</i>	5
<i>“Could we create or encourage housing co-ops or alliances to support ‘aging in place’?”</i>	1
<i>“What can the city do to promote and maybe financially support housing renovations and updating - rather than tear downs?”</i>	2
<i>“More use of renewable energy in homes”</i>	
<i>“Intergenerational living spaces and housing near transit stops and LRT”</i>	
<i>“The Paisley Lane neighborhood has been re-made with sub-divisions, which has caused loss of character and severe tree loss”</i>	1

# Transportation

- Total stickers = 154
- Most stickers = “Improve bicycle connections throughout community” (32)
- Least stickers = “Identify and address safety issues within roadway network” (11)

Goals	Sticker Count
Identify and address safety issues within roadway network	11
Provide options for all modes of travel (auto, bicycle, pedestrian) using “Complete Streets” concepts	21
Improve bicycle connections throughout community	32 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Safe connections”</li> <li>• “Glenwood” - “Ditto”</li> <li>• “GVR”</li> <li>• “Duluth St”</li> </ul>
Improve pedestrian connections with new sidewalks and trails	24
Increase bus and light rail transit usage	12 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Bus on Harold”</li> <li>• “Solar bus”</li> <li>• “Small, solar bus around town” - “Ditto”</li> </ul>
Improve access to future light rail stations	22
Visually integrate signage, lighting, and landscaping along roadways	15
<b>Other</b>	
<i>“[Up] creativity such as bump outs, art on pathways, etc.”</i>	4
<i>“Safe bike and ped crossing over and under Highway 55”</i>	9
<i>“North/south bike and ped paths and trails”</i>	2
<i>“Small buses for trips between SLP (and CC gym, grocery store, and shopping”</i>	
<i>“We need to catch up with our neighboring communities on providing on-street bike lanes with bike lane street signs and bike stencils”</i>	1
<i>“A citywide streetcar/trolley/electric bus/etc that connects new community center with shops and residential areas and parks to reduce traffic, pollution, reliance on automobiles”</i>	
<i>“Reduce height of plantings that obstruct visually”</i>	1

## Water Resources

- Total stickers = 138
- Most stickers = “Improve quality and reduce quantity of stormwater runoff” (32)
- Least stickers = “Prevent and reduce erosion and sedimentation” (8) and “Reduce impact of flood damage on residents and businesses” (8)

Goals	Sticker Count
Improve water quality of local water bodies	27
Improve quality and reduce quantity of stormwater runoff	32
Prevent and reduce erosion and sedimentation	8
Reduce impact of flood damage on residents and businesses	8
Protect and enhance natural areas and wetlands to improve their functions	34
Involve and educate the public on water resource related issues	22 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Involve and educate XXXX” 1 sticker</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	
“Protect drinking water”	2
“Change the way we measure the economy”	
“Have an education XXXXXXXX Newsletter online Place GV webinar Sustainable use of resources Remove sustainability Causes then present Water resources”	
“More frequent street sweeping in fall”	
“Lawn chemical education - free workshops”	3
“Encourage rain gardens, terraces, and nature plants along blvds to slow run-off and filter”	1
“Encourage residents to reduce the use of chemicals on their lawns”	
“Encourage residents to plant native plants in their gardens”	1

## Parks

- Total stickers = 153
- Most stickers = “Ensure a park environment supportive of active lifestyles by providing opportunities for physical activity for people who live, work, play, and learn in Golden Valley” (27) and “Create additional (or expand) open space, parks, and trails” (27)
- Least stickers = “Redevelop parks and recreation areas that will serve future community needs”

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Sticker Count</b>
Provide attractive parks, nature areas, and open spaces for community enjoyment	25
Redevelop parks and recreation areas that will serve future community needs	6
Provide recreational opportunities for all community members, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic status	14
Protect, preserve, enhance and educate residents on natural resources	15 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “And sustainability and preservation of resources” 3 stickers</li> </ul>
Create additional (or expand) open space, parks, and trails	27
Ensure a park environment supportive of active lifestyles by providing opportunities for physical activity for people who live, work, play, and learn in Golden Valley	27
Maintain, improve, and replace park amenities throughout the park system	18
Continue to provide recreational and educational opportunities to meet the needs of the community	16
<b>Other</b>	
“Outdoor swimming pool”	2

## Sustainability/Resilience

- Total stickers = 169
- Most stickers = “Encourage use of renewable energy, including wind, solar, etc.” (31)
- Least stickers = “Build community resilience to changing climate” (8)

Goals	Sticker Count
Encourage energy efficiency for buildings and lighting	22
Encourage use of renewable energy, including wind, solar, etc	31
Foster local food production	9
Enhance water quality	20
Enhance air quality	12
Encourage waste reduction, recycling and composting	24
Maintain/increase vegetation	20 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Promote use of native plants” and</i></li> <li>• <i>“Native plants in garden spaces and parks, offer incentives to some residents to do the same”</i></li> </ul>
Build community resilience to changing climate	8
Educate and Engage the public in sustainability opportunities	19
<b>Other</b>	1 additional sticker not placed on a post-it note
<i>“Educate and act to protect pollinators”</i>	2
<i>“Promote small, residential honey bee keeping”</i>	
<i>“Free workshops on recycling; what can be recycled”</i>	1

## Economic Competitiveness

- Total stickers = 140
- Most stickers = “Encourage high-quality development projects that respect their surroundings and are visually attractive” (35)
- Least stickers = “Increase job density to grow tax base, expand markets, and provide more opportunities for Golden Valley residents” (10)

Goals	Sticker Count
Encourage redevelopment projects that are environmentally sustainable and support active living	23
Protect the existing job base by maintaining major employers	23
Encourage redevelopment of obsolete, blighted or unsustainable parcels	27 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Yes, but only with consultation of citizens and neighbors to get development that <u>matches</u> the character and meets needs locally”</li> </ul>
Encourage high-quality development projects that respect their surroundings and are visually attractive	29 <i>Comments:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<u>NOT</u> at the expense of our green space and <u>not</u> at the point where we diminish the sylvan character of our city!!!” 6 stickers</li> </ul>
Increase job density to grow tax base, expand markets, and provide more opportunities for Golden Valley residents	10
Diversify the economic mix of Golden Valley	15
<b>Other</b>	
“Implement a Golden Valley “rewards” card to encourage local shopping. (Similar to something like SA Rewards Card or Target Redbucks)”	
“Diversify the population and engage those from other cultures”	2
“Get solar buses/ tesla plant or station”	3
“Attract and engage people from other cultures”	1
“Solar: good bus transportation on Highway 55 east of Douglas”	
“Change the way we measure the economy”	
“Sustainable competitiveness”	
“Encourage transit oriented development”	1

## Additional Questions

What uses or amenities are currently lacking in Golden Valley?

- *"North/South bike and pedestrian pathway and walkways"*
- *"1 level living single family - seniors and disabled"*
- *"Affordable housing and diversity"*
- *"Need for mixed use near light rail stop. i.e. to create a small city center area"*

What does Golden Valley need to become more "livable"?

- *"Safe crossings for bikes and peds over 55"*
- *"Ways to promote interaction and exchange - even sharing - among residents - and spaces to promote!"*
- *"Bike lanes to downtown Golden Valley from anywhere in the city"*
- *"Preserve the green space"*
- *"Comprehensive bus service for at least 20 hours/day"*

Are there parts of Golden Valley that are in need of change?

- *"Downtown needs to a central spot to draw people to it for errands"*
- *"Valley View Park is currently being used only to fly kits, feed geese, and raise the land value of adjacent houses. I propose the park is used for commercial, sports, or apartments."*
- *"Do we need any "regional destination" locations to draw patrons (customers) from beyond Golden Valley? Theater? Arts? Park amenity?"*

Are there parts of Golden Valley that should NOT change?

- *"Certain neighborhoods are beautiful and should be maintained without density"*
- *"Neighborhoods"*
- *"Preserve neighborhoods with large lots and lots of trees! That's what we moved to GV for!"*
- *"YES!!! Neighborhoods and green space (all of it)"*
- *"No big box stores, please!"*
- *"In anticipation of the old shopping center owner at some point deciding to sell the land on 55.... I live across the street and don't want the city to allow a high rise to go in there! We'll never see the sun again in Wesley Commons!"*

# 2040 Comp Plan

## “Share Your Ideas” Results

No.	Select a category:	Comments:
1	Land Use	<p>Land Use Category... IMMEDIATE PRIORITY - The Golden Valley Shopping Center at Highway 55 and Winnetka is THE eyesore of GV and needs to be upgraded to look like Golden Valley Commons just to the east of Winnetka. This should be a wakeup call for our GV Council members AND the Mayor! Develop the Laurel Ponds aquatic areas along Laurel Avenue between Winnetka and Xenia Avenues... needs [additional] paved trails on the north side of the ponds, periodic clearing out of the adjacent underbrush/woody debris for better aquatic viewing, more benches and renewal of existing ones, trash receptacles near benches, re-configuration of bank-lines to permit better observation of waterfowl, etc. Develop educational environmental awareness signage. Encourage diversity of habitat. There is a tremendous degree of potential for this area. Even though it does not have to be on the scale of what Edina did to transform the pre-Centennial Lakes area [dismal, swampy, neglected] into what it is now, we have enough of a talent base within our community to effect a transformation. As you may know, the Laurel Ponds area were formerly dump sites, I believe... now its time to move on to Phase 11. Encourage more reasonably-priced eating establishments for families, such as iHOP, Golden Corral, Bob Evans, Steak `n Shake, Cracker Barrel, to move into the Highway 55 and 169 corridors within GV. We already have enough nearby West End-type of fancy restaurants to satisfy the single millennial's. Sorry to have missed the Sept 19 meeting, but please put me on your emailing list. Eugene Degenhardt</p>
2	Sustainability	<p>Bring back the night---Home owners put covers/shades over their yard lights---should not shine into neighbors' homes. Bring back some quiet---no home construction after 6 pm. No grass mowing after 7 pm. Bring back butterflies---stop use of Roundup and other herbicides and convert lawns to rain/vegetable/ prairie gardens</p>
3	Other	<p>In 14 years of living in Golden Valley I have never been contacted on a survey for the future of Golden Valley. It seems like the city council takes action based upon the outrage of a few very vocal individuals. Send out a survey to the public in general. A 10% raise in my city portion of property taxes seems incredibly ridiculous to save a golf course when golf courses seem to be closing en masse. 15 city garbage haulers seem excessive but the council is unable to make change due to a vocal minority. Parking on streets is an issue and ordinances seem to improve things but once again the city council is unable to stay with change due to the efforts of a vocal minority. I spend a lot of time at work, take care of my home, and am a good member of the community. I do not have the time to do a constant bitch session to get the attention of the city council and mayor. Send out surveys to the community at large and listen to you larger constituency. I like the quiet life of Golden Valley and am disturbed at the impetus to bring in large housing and light rail, both of which are distinctly at odds with the quality of life we experience here.</p>

4	Parks	Would love to have a nice dirt running path for beginning runners. My knees aren't handling the paved paths well anymore. Wirth has trails but they are quite hilly. MaryHills is great but short.
5	Transportation	I still can't figure out the bus schedule along Glenwood. And I support light rail.
6	Housing	Stop building apartment buildings. Stop dividing lots to build 4 homes on, as in the case of Glenwood and Meadow Lane North. Stop dividing lots to build 3 homes on, as in the case of Meadow Lane North & Sunnyridge Lane. Assess the Street Damage due to these recent expansions to the Construction Companies that ruin the streets. Especially on Ardmore Drive between Woodstock & Beverly
7	Other	Hello! After reading the pg. 7 article in the City News on Diversity, I wanted to share my thoughts on ways to include diversity and inclusion in our community. First, I'd like to share a bit about myself with you. I'm a new resident of Golden Valley, an author, and blogger. I write a blog celebrating everyday heroes in our communities inviting adventure, creativity and passion for a life well-lived. Recently, while thinking about a new blog post topic I drove by one of our neighbors homes on Glenwood. I loved that she had BOTH a "Black Lives Matter" poster and a "I support the Golden Valley Police" signs in her yard. I pulled over, got out of my car, and knocked on her door. I introduced myself and asked the lovely woman, clad in her pink bathrobe, if she would mind if I took a picture of her signs. She told me her name was Lynn, that she and her husband had two children, "One white, one brown" and that she shared my view that we have room in our minds for more than a single idea of justice. Black lives DO matter. Police Officers should be supported to do their jobs (and as human beings). Both these things can be true, yet sometimes it seems as if we must pick one. Lynn shared that this wasn't her first Black Lives sign--the first had been ripped in two, another had been stolen from her yard. And yet, she persists. If we in Golden Valley want to continue to be a model of diversity and inclusion, we need to start with education and empathy. Our minds must be opened to the breadth of experiences outside our own. Only then can we create a welcoming environment for others. Dr. Heather Hackman leads courses on Social Justice. Unitarian churches support this type of education. Local universities offer undergraduate degrees in Social and Racial Justice. My suggestion: Let us be a city to offer community education programs on social justice. Let us educate ourselves, have conversations, and support each other's natural empathy. Let us encourage the dialogue of AND, not OR. I think we can do it, do you?
8	Economic Competitiveness	With many home-based businesses, Golden Valley could use a shared office facility, preferably close to restaurants, coffee shops and printing/mailing.
9	Parks	Golden Valley has great neighborhood parks but few with loop walking trails for adults. Nature areas would be ideal for this.
10	Housing	Would like to see residential zoning that encourages attractive, durable mixed-income neighborhoods.
11	Water	How can we be at the forefront of separating delivery and recapture of potable water from water for other purposes?

12	Parks	Please allow for the Parks Dept and the Parks Commission to have more active roles in seeking community input on changes to the parks systems. Many decisions seem to be made on their own without public input (Lawn Bowling is fine, but a multi-use space/dome is so needed in this area), other P&R decisions are made to increase revenue through the parks system while taking away public use time (i.e. Twin Cities Tennis Camps). After years of asking, it is great to see a system to connect trails finally take place.
13	Other	I am interested in discussing how the city plans to incorporate "Issues of Race and Equity", which was outlined on page 7 of the Jan/Feb 2017 issue of GV City News. In particular, I think that land use, transportation, and housing are key to ensuring equity for all citizens of GV. One of the questions we should be asking ourselves at each step of the way as we create our comprehensive plan, is "how can we ensure that every decision we make takes equity into consideration, particularly for citizens who are racial/ethnic/religious minorities, LGBT, poor, or disabled?" Where we decide to put our money is not only an economic decision, but also a moral one. Ensuring that vulnerable/disadvantaged groups are considered and cared for is the hallmark of a strong community. My recommendation would be to have a specific review for each section of the 2040 comprehensive plan that considers this.
14	Land Use	GV needs to remove barriers to and probably even incentivize more locations of commerce. Multi-use paths to Golden Valley Shopping center is an improvement, but the communities that people want to live in (and will pay a premium to live in) have more options for food and shopping than one 20 minute bike ride away. There may only be a few other locations where non-residential land is available, but they need to be prioritized for the needs of the community, not just as end points for other people's commutes. Downtown Bryn-Mawr is a good example. Maybe only a dozen or so non-residential buildings used efficiently to create a destination. It goes against what some people like about Golden Valley (large setbacks, strong separation of residential and commercial), but I believe it will be necessary to attract buyers to all the houses that will be turning over in the next 10-15 years.
15	Housing	Stop cramming high density housing in the area. It lessens home values and taxes parks and other common resources. Funny how no one is building tearing down a house and dropping six "detached townhomes" on a single lot in Tyrol, but in the rest of the city it's just fine.
16	Water	Basset Creek is a gem. It could be just as desirable as Minnehaha Creek if it were more convenient to canoes and kayaks with clear debarkation points and public restrooms.
17	Economic Competitiveness	Areas like Arbor Lake in Maple Grove and West End in SLP are thriving. Creating a clear and central retail development like this in GV by replacing the surface lots and strip malls across hwy 55 from Brookdale would do wonders for the cities identity, tax base and desirability.

18	Transportation	<p>We live on Winnetka Avenue and are very dissatisfied with the addition of bike lanes and the reduction of traffic lanes between 10th AVE and Medicine Lake Road. We feel the addition of bike lanes is not beneficial and is not representative of the traffic needs of the area. The bike lanes are not used enough to make them necessary. Winnetka has so many hills, most bikes avoid it, and all the bikes we see use the sidewalk. Decreasing the number of lanes for traffic has caused traffic on Winnetka to back up and make it difficult for people who live here to enter from their homes. People do not use the turn lane correctly and have nearly caused accidents because they enter the lane too early or use it unlawfully. We strongly recommend the bike lanes be removed and additional traffic lanes be added. I have called the police and reported near accidents when cars are using the turn lanes incorrectly, and was told they would patrol, but I don't see how that will help.</p>
----	----------------	---