

# Summary of Cottonwood Heights Statistically-valid Surveys (2016, 2017 and 2019)



Cottonwood Heights residents are overwhelmingly satisfied with their quality of life and enjoy the City's convenient location with easy access to regional transportation networks, proximity to the canyons, access to businesses and services and overall community safety. Residents also enjoyed their quiet neighborhoods, recreation opportunities and scenic surroundings. In both surveys, the average quality of life rating in Cottonwood Heights was about 80 on a 0-100 scale in both surveys. Each survey also showed that the majority (50-55%) of residents believed that Cottonwood Heights is headed in the right direction with only about 15% of residents who felt the City was on the wrong track.

Managing growth, fiscal responsibility and traffic are the top concerns of residents. Development is seen as a dual-edged sword that threatens the look and feel of the city, but also provides more convenient transportation and amenities and broadens the tax base. In general, residents emphasized maintenance and focused improvement of roads, bike and pedestrian infrastructure and parks and trails.

A majority (57%) of Cottonwood Heights residents felt that the City should plan for its future transportation needs now by developing more convenient mass transit access routes throughout the city. However, this support drops to 45% when asked if Fort Union Boulevard should become a major transit corridor indicating that residents may be wary of changes that may impact their ability to drive easily. This possibility is further supported by the strong desire (58% support) to redevelop major corridors such as Fort Union Boulevard, Highland Drive and Wasatch Boulevard to modernize their appearance, improve traffic flow and broaden the commercial tax base of the city.

Active transportation improvements were very popular with the public as indicated in the 2019 survey. Dedicated and shared bike lanes received strong support with 64-68% supporting the idea in some way. Raised crosswalks in school zones and improved signage at crosswalks and intersections were overwhelmingly supported (72% and 87% respectively) indicating that focused pedestrian improvements would be received well by the public. The widening of sidewalks was generally supported as well (61%).

In 2017, the public was surveyed about accessory dwelling units (ADUs). About half of residents were aware of existing ADUs in their neighborhood. ADU favorability was evenly split with approximately one third supporting, opposing or did not have an opinion either way.

Parks, trails and open space were also important to respondents with 69% saying they would support an increase in taxes if the funds were used to purchase land for parks and open spaces (2016). When asked to identify their parks, trails and open space priorities, top answers included preserving current open space, new parks or green space, dog park(s), increased maintenance of current parks and playgrounds, increased parking and accessibility at current trailheads, and additional amenities such as restrooms and picnic facilities at trailheads (2019).

The most visited parks in Cottonwood Heights were Bywater Park, Butler Park, Mountview Park, Antczak Park and Crestwood Park (2019). When asked which parks presented the greatest opportunity for

improvement, respondents identified Olde Mill Park/Spencer's Pond, Bywater Park, Crestwood Park, Antzac Park and Ferguson Canyon Trailhead as having the most potential. Top amenities that residents wanted to see added or improved included walking trails/jogging tracks, off-leash dog area(s), restrooms, general maintenance/cleanliness, trees and playground equipment (2019). Additional sports fields or courts in city parks ranked relatively low on this list with an average percentage of 9%.

## City Direction/Quality of Life

- **Majority of residents believe Cottonwood Heights is headed in the right direction.**
  - **2016:**
    - 55% Right Direction
    - 31% Don't Know
    - 14% Wrong Direction
  - **2019:**
    - 50% Right Direction
    - 33% Don't Know
    - 16% Wrong Direction
  
- **The most important issue facing Cottonwood Heights today (top answers from 2016)**
  - Growth 12%
  - Fiscal Responsibility / Lower Taxes 12%
  - Traffic 10%
  - Crime / Drugs 9%
  - Snow Removal 9%
  - Maintenance of Public Infrastructure (Parks, Roads, etc.) 9%
  - The Police Department Policies/Image 8%
  - Overdevelopment / Too Much Commercial Development / Developer Influence 6%
  - Don't Know / Nothing 5%
  - Problems with City Leadership / Mayor 4%
  
- **Average quality of life rating in Cottonwood Heights is about 80 on a 0-100 scale (2016 and 2019).**
  
- **What do you like most about living in Cottonwood Heights? (top answers from 2016)**
  - Mountains/Canyons 30%
  - Location 24%
  - Roads/Freeway Access / Light Traffic 21%
  - Safety / Police + Fire Depts / Low Crime 17%
  - The Businesses/Restaurants/Services 16%
  - Beautiful City / Scenery / Views / Clean 14%

- The People / Friends 14%
- Quiet/Nice Neighborhood 12%
- Recreation / Rec Center 11%
- **How would you rate the city of Cottonwood Heights today compared to five years ago?**
  - **2016:**
    - 11% Much Better
    - 31% Somewhat Better
    - 28% About the Same
    - 13% Somewhat Worse
    - 5% Much Worse
    - 13% Don't Know
  - **2019:**
    - 8% Much Better
    - 29% Somewhat Better
    - 37% About the Same
    - 13% Somewhat Worse
    - 3% Much Worse
    - 10% Don't Know
- **Majority of residents would prefer that services be cut (59%) than that their taxes be raised (41%). 2016.**

## Growth and Development

- **A large majority would prefer increased development (75%) to increased property taxes (25%). 2016.**
- **Increased development in Cottonwood Heights threatens the open spaces, atmosphere, and lifestyle we enjoy in our community. 2016.**
  - 23% Strongly Agree
  - 30% Somewhat Agree
  - 21% Neither Agree or Disagree
  - 19% Somewhat Disagree
  - 7% Strongly Disagree.
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## Transportation

- **When asked to choose between the two, 51% would like to improve and maintain roads vs. 49% who would like a more walkable community. 2016.**
- **Major corridors in Cottonwood Heights, such as Fort Union Boulevard, Highland Drive, and Wasatch Boulevard, should be redeveloped over the next several years to modernize the appearance, improve traffic flow, and broaden the commercial tax base of the city. 2016.**
  - 20% Strongly Agree
  - 38% Somewhat Agree
  - 15% Neither Agree or Disagree
  - 15% Somewhat Disagree
  - 12% Strongly Disagree.
- **Cottonwood Heights should plan for the city's future transportation needs now by developing more convenient mass transit access routes throughout the city. 2016.**
  - 24% Strongly Agree
  - 33% Somewhat Agree
  - 18% Neither Agree or Disagree
  - 13% Somewhat Disagree
  - 12% Strongly Disagree.
- **Fort Union Boulevard should become a mass transit corridor to better accommodate future transportation needs in Cottonwood Heights. 2016.**
  - 15% Strongly Agree
  - 30% Somewhat Agree
  - 17% Neither Agree or Disagree
  - 18% Somewhat Disagree
  - 20% Strongly Disagree.
- **Dedicated and shared bike lanes were broadly supported. Raised crosswalks in school zones and improved signage at crosswalks and intersections also received strong support. Wider sidewalks were generally supported though responses were more neutral. 2019.**

## Parks, Trails and Open Space

- **61% of respondents believed that improving and maintaining current City parks, trails, and open space were a higher priority than purchasing land and developing new parks, trails, and open spaces (39%). 2019.**
- **69% of respondents stated their willingness to support an increase in taxes if the funds were used to purchase land for parks and open spaces. 2016.**

- 28% Definitely Support
  - 41% Likely Support
  - 18% Likely Oppose
  - 13% Definitely Oppose
- **The most visited parks were Bywater Park (18%), Butler Park (16%), Mountview Park (11%), Antzcak Park (10%) and Crestwood Park (10%). 2019.**
  - **Respondents wanted improvements at the following parks the most: Olde Mill Park/Spencer’s Pond (16%), Bywater Park (16%), Crestwood Park (13%), Antzcak Park (11%) and Ferguson Canyon Trailhead (11%). 2019.**
  - **Top amenities to be added or improved included walking trails/jogging tracks (27%), an off-leash dog area (23%), restrooms (19%), general maintenance/cleanliness (18%), trees (17%) and playground equipment (12%). 2019.**
  - **Below is a list of potential ways Cottonwood Heights could invest in city parks and open spaces. Which of the following parks and open space investments would you most like to see the City prioritize? Select up to three. (Results as average percent) 2019**
    - Preserving current open spaces 56%
    - New parks or green space in the city 33%
    - Dog park in the city 32%
    - Increase maintenance of current parks and playgrounds 24%
    - Increase parking and accessibility at current trailheads 22%
    - Additional amenities such as restrooms and picnic facilities at trailheads 20%
    - Increase maintenance and preservation of trails 19%
    - Increase trail miles from current trailheads 13%
    - Additional sports fields or courts in city parks 9%

## ADUs

- **About half of residents (49%) are aware of accessory dwelling units in their neighborhood. 2017.**
- **Among those residents who are aware of ADUs in their neighborhood, 37% have a favorable opinion of them, 36% have an unfavorable opinion. 2017.**
  - 22% Very Favorable
  - 15% Somewhat Favorable
  - 27% Neither
  - 19% Somewhat Unfavorable
  - 17% Very Unfavorable

- **46% prefer amending the city code to address ADUs, 34% prefer not to amend or enforce current city code. 20% preferred to enforce current code and evict renters. 2017.**