

ADDENDUM COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Introduction

In the ongoing process of ensuring adequate community feedback—including community forums, committee meetings, and interviews—the MWDCDC conducted an intensive public survey process of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights residents to gauge community opinion on the formation of the Emerald Link.

Over a one-month period, data was collected utilizing a standard multiple choice and open-answer paper survey. The survey was made available to residents at community forums, in the MWDCDC office and through personal interviews at neighbors' homes. In door-to-door interviews, the study team chose subjects from the homes closest to the six sections of the Study Area. These areas were chosen both because of their proximity to the study area and the potential impact new trailheads and general recreational activity might have on the quality of life of those residents.

By offering residents ample opportunity to provide their feedback and concerns, the implementation of this project has a far greater chance of success and community acceptance.

A total of 230 households were targeted for this survey, with 62 respondents volunteering their time to answer the survey. A response rate of 30% was expected before the survey; this total represents a 27% rate.

Structure and Content

The five-page survey consisted of four separate sections:

Section I: Grandview Scenic Byway Park Questions

Section II: Public Participation In Community Planning

Section III: Other Community Concerns

In addition to questions specific to the Study Area, questions regarding additional community concerns were included for use in future MWDCDC projects and reports.

A fourth, optional section, Personal Background, was included, but did not yield results worthy of note for this summary.

A copy of the survey is included in the following pages.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
MWDC COMMUNITY SURVEY AND RESULTS

SECTION I: GRANDVIEW SCENIC BYWAY PARK QUESTIONS

I.1 Are you aware of the proposed Grandview Scenic Byway Park (also known as the Emerald Link) currently under development by the city and the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- a. 95 b. 5

An overwhelming majority of those surveyed supported this project.

I.2 Do you feel preserving a large portion of public green space in our neighborhoods will be a benefit to the community?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- a. 98 b. 2

Respondents also overwhelmingly support the preservation of green space.

I.3 Do you approve of formation of a natural, unpaved trail that would connect the open spaces of the park?

- 1. Strongly Support
- 2. Support
- 3. No Opinion
- 4. Disapprove
- 5. Strongly Disapprove
- a. 42 b. 32 c. 16 d. 11 e. 0

64% support the formation of a connecting trail while only 11% disapprove.

I.4 Would you be in favor of a park that is passively used (conserved for environmental use) rather than actively used (for recreational use)?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- a. 58 b. 42

Written responses to this question included favor for both uses, depending on the section.

I.5 Do you support the use of motorized recreational vehicles in the green spaces on Mt. Washington?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- a. 63 b. 37

Written responses noted that official vehicles would be OK, though some support ATV use.

I.6 Have you ever attended a public meeting on planning or development of the Grandview Scenic Byway Park?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- a. 58 b. 42

I.7 Indicate how often anyone in your household participates in the following activities during the appropriate season by marking the appropriate column.

1. Never 2. Less than once a month 3. One-three times a month 4. Once or more a week

<i>Activity</i>	1	2	3	4
a. swimming	1	2	3	4
b. hiking	1	2	3	4
c. fishing	1	2	3	4
d. boating	1	2	3	4
e. mountain biking	1	2	3	4
f. camping	1	2	3	4
g. ice skating	1	2	3	4
h. snowshoeing	1	2	3	4
i. hunting	1	2	3	4
j. picnicking	1	2	3	4
k. tennis	1	2	3	4
l. bowling	1	2	3	4
m. golf	1	2	3	4
n. rock climbing	1	2	3	4
o. bird watching	1	2	3	4
p. Team Sports: baseball, soccer, football, hockey, volleyball, etc.	1	2	3	4
q. Other:	1	2	3	4

a.1	26	a.2	16	a.3	0	a.4	27
b.1	21	b.2	11	b.3	37	b.4	16
c.1	52	c.2	53	c.3	0	c.4	0
d.1	32	d.2	27	d.3	0	d.4	0
e.1	37	e.2	11	e.3	21	e.4	26
f.1	37	f.2	27	f.3	0	f.4	0
g.1	37	g.2	27	g.3	0	g.4	0
h.1	37	h.2	5	h.3	5	h.4	0
i.1	52	i.2	0	i.3	5	i.4	0

Swimming, mountain biking, hiking, and picnicking proved to be the most popular activities of respondents.

j.1	58	j.2	15	j.3	21	j.4	5
k.1	21	k.2	15	k.3	5	k.4	5
l.1	32	l.2	31	l.3	5	l.4	0
m.1	21	m.2	11	m.3	0	m.4	0
n.1	53	n.2	11	n.3	5	n.4	0
o.1	27	o.2	16	o.3	11	o.4	16
p.1	37	p.2	11	p.3	5	p.4	0
q.1	16	q.2	5	q.3	0	q.4	11

I.8 What concerns do you have with the preservation of open spaces in our community that you would like heard in a public forum?

- Keeping local residents in mind, not just tourists
- This is urban area, too, so be sure to account for city life
- Better maintaining damaged trees from "topping"
- Patrolling illegal dumping and poaching
- Police/city/community protection of areas

SECTION II: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

II.1 How interested are you in community affairs and issues in Mount Washington?

1. Not at all interested
 2. Interested sometimes
 3. Very much interested
 4. Don't know
- a. 5 b. 7 c. 88 d. 0

An overwhelming majority of those surveyed are very interested in the affairs of their community...

II.2 In your opinion, how much opportunity is there for average citizens to participate in activities and meetings concerning Community development and public issues?

1. No opportunity
 2. Some opportunity
 3. A great deal of opportunity
 4. Don't know
- a. 3 b. 10 c. 80 d. 7

...and they feel there is ample opportunity for participation.

II.3 In your opinion, how much difference can average citizens make by participating in activities and meetings concerning Community development and public issues?

1. None
 2. Little
 3. Some
 4. Very Much
 5. Don't Know
- a. 4 b. 5 c. 15 d. 70 e. 1

The belief that the average citizen could affect change in their community was also high.

II.4 How many unpaid activities and meetings concerning Community development and public issues have you attended in the past year ?

1. None
 2. 1-5
 3. 6-10
 4. More than 10
- a. 18 b. 35 c. 5 d. 52

II.5 Select the Community issues of most importance to you. Select no more than 4.

1. Preservation of Parks and Open Spaces
 2. Crime
 3. Housing
 4. Economic Development
 5. Neighborhood Appearance and Cleanliness
 6. Education
 7. Jobs
 8. Elderly
 9. Youth
- a. 58 b. 42 c. 26 d. 42 e. 52 f. 42 g. 11 h. 21 i. 26

Most important community issues:
1. Preservation of open spaces
2. Neighborhood Appearance
3. Economic Development
4. Education
5. Crime

II.6 Overall, how does Mount Washington today compare to how it was 5 years ago?

1. Much Better
2. Somewhat Better
3. Stay the Same
4. Somewhat Worse
5. Much Worse

a. 11 b. 26 c. 11 d. 16 e. 0

37% feel the community has improved in the last 5 years, while only 16% feel it's worse.

II.7 In what direction do you think Mount Washington is heading?

1. Getting a lot worse
2. Getting a little worse
3. Staying the same
4. Getting a little better
5. Getting a lot better
6. Don't know

a. 0 b. 11 c. 11 d. 37 e. 21 f. 11

58% feel the community is heading in the right direction.

II.8 What qualities and characteristics of the area are of most importance to the Community? (Please rank the top three choices, Number 1 = the most important. Write the number on the line next to your answer.)

1. Scenic beauty	
2. Friendly atmosphere	
3. Urban character	
4. Relaxed lifestyle	
5. Secure/Safe Feeling	
6. Proximity to Downtown	
7. Other	

a.1 26 **a.2** 5 **a.3** 5 **a.4** 0 **a.5** 0
b.1 11 **b.2** 21 **b.3** 16 **b.4** 0 **b.5** 5
c.1 11 **c.2** 5 **c.3** 21 **c.4** 0 **c.5** 0
d.1 5 **d.2** 5 **d.3** 5 **d.4** 0 **d.5** 0
e.1 42 **e.2** 16 **e.3** 0 **e.4** 5 **e.5** 0
f.1 5 **f.2** 21 **f.3** 5 **f.4** 0 **f.5** 0
g.1 0 **g.2** 0 **g.3** 0 **g.4** 0 **g.5** 0

Most important qualities for community:
 1. Relaxed lifestyle
 2. Friendly atmosphere
 3. Scenic beauty

II.9 What have been the best changes in Mount Washington in the last two years?

- Cleaning/improving of Main Streets
- Community has begun to understand importance of open space and Parks to quality of life
- Rocking chairs and potted flowers
- Gateway to Shiloh
- Grand view Scenic Byway initiative
- South Hills High School
- New MW CDC Board

SECTION III: OTHER COMMUNITY CONCERNS

III.1 Please rate the following community services by circling the number that best represents your opinion.

	Excellent 1	Good 2	Average 3	Poor 4
a. Schools	1	2	3	4
b. Police protection	1	2	3	4
c. Road construction/maintenance	1	2	3	4
d. Public water supply	1	2	3	4
e. Fire protection	1	2	3	4
f. Public sewage disposal system	1	2	3	4
g. Ambulance emergency service	1	2	3	4
h. Health/medical service	1	2	3	4
i. Professional services	1	2	3	4
j. Grocery shopping facilities	1	2	3	4
k. Recreation facilities	1	2	3	4
l. Access to wilderness areas	1	2	3	4

a.1	0	a.2	11	a.3	11	a.4	11
b.1	5	b.2	11	b.3	37	b.4	11
c.1	5	c.2	5	c.3	37	c.4	11
d.1	5	d.2	21	d.3	16	d.4	0
e.1	21	e.2	11	e.3	16	e.4	0
f.1	5	f.2	21	f.3	21	f.4	0
g.1	11	g.2	0	g.3	26	g.4	5
h.1	16	h.2	0	h.3	21	h.4	11
i.1	5	i.2	11	i.3	21	i.4	11
j.1	0	j.2	16	j.3	21	j.4	21
k.1	5	k.2	16	k.3	21	k.4	16
l.1	5	l.2	21	l.3	21	l.4	5

III.2 Are there public facilities or services that are not present in the community that you feel should be made available?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- a. 74 b. 16

The most popular write-in answer for this question was public restroom or visitor center.

III.3 How important are community organizations to the quality of life in Mount Washington?

- 1. Very Important 2. Somewhat Important 3. Not at all important
- a. 58 b. 26 c. 5

III.4 How important is active participation in community organizations or volunteer work to the quality of life in Mount Washington?

- 1. Very Important 2. Somewhat Important 3. Not at all important
- a. 47 b. 37 c. 1

III.5 How often do you participate in volunteer or community organizations?

- 1. Never
 - 2. Less than once a month
 - 3. Once a month
 - 4. 2-4 times a month
 - 5. Once or more per week
- a. 11 b. 21 c. 32 d. 21 e. 16

III.6 Have you ever attended a public meeting on planning or development in Mount Washington?

- 1. Yes
 - 2. No
- a. 47 b. 52

III.7 Would you be interested in attending a meeting or work session to plan for the improvement of Mount Washington?

- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe
- a. 58 b. 16 c. 26

III.8 Should the community seek growth in the following areas? (Please circle the number that best represents your opinion).

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

a. New recreational areas/facilities	1	2	3	4	5
b. Growth of open spaces/views	1	2	3	4	5
c. Jobs	1	2	3	4	5
d. Recreation/tourist visits	1	2	3	4	5
e. New home development	1	2	3	4	5
f. Light Industry	1	2	3	4	5
g. Heavy industry	1	2	3	4	5
h. New retail stores	1	2	3	4	5
i. Affordable Housing	1	2	3	4	5
j. Population	1	2	3	4	5

a.1 37 **a.2** 16 **a.3** 11 **a.4** 0 **a.5** 0
b.1 42 **b.2** 16 **b.3** 5 **b.4** 0 **b.5** 0
c.1 0 **c.2** 42 **c.3** 16 **c.4** 0 **c.5** 0

d.1	26	d.2	26	d.3	5	d.4	0	d.5	0
e.1	16	e.2	11	e.3	26	e.4	0	e.5	5
f.1	0	f.2	0	f.3	16	f.4	26	f.5	16
g.1	0	g.2	0	g.3	0	g.4	11	g.5	47
h.1	16	h.2	26	h.3	16	h.4	0	h.5	0
i.1	16	i.2	16	i.3	26	i.4	0	i.5	0
j.1	11	j.2	26	j.3	16	j.4	0	j.5	5

Most respondents supported the growth of open spaces and views (58% support) over creation of new heavy industry (58% do not support)

III.9 From the list above choose the #1 priority for growth in the community:

a. 5 b. 11 c. 0 d. 16 e. 5 f. 0 g. 0 h. 11 i. 0 j. 5

The top three responses for priorities in community growth were:

1. Recreation/tourist visits
2. Growth of open spaces/views
3. New retail stores

III.10 The goals of the community should be: (Please rate by the number which best represents your opinion)

	1. Strongly Agree	2. Agree	3. Neutral	4. Disagree	5. Strongly Disagree
a. Stay the same	1	2	3	4	5
b. Improve access to natural areas	1	2	3	4	5
c. Expand existing businesses	1	2	3	4	5
d. Attract new businesses	1	2	3	4	5
e. Expand recreation facilities	1	2	3	4	5
f. Develop new forestry-oriented activities	1	2	3	4	5
g. Attract more residents	1	2	3	4	5
h. Promote larger industry-oriented business	1	2	3	4	5
i. Revitalize the Shiloh business district	1	2	3	4	5
j. Beautify the neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5
k. Provide jobs for youth	1	2	3	4	5
l. Inter-community support and cooperation	1	2	3	4	5

a.1	0	a.2	0	a.3	5	a.4	16	a.5	37
b.1	32	b.2	16	b.3	5	b.4	0	b.5	0
c.1	11	c.2	32	c.3	11	c.4	0	c.5	5
d.1	21	d.2	37	d.3	0	d.4	0	d.5	0
e.1	16	e.2	32	e.3	5	e.4	0	e.5	0
f.1	16	f.2	32	f.3	0	f.4	11	f.5	0
g.1	11	g.2	32	g.3	11	g.4	0	g.5	5
h.1	0	h.2	5	h.3	0	h.4	26	h.5	26
i.1	32	i.2	26	i.3	0	i.4	0	i.5	0
j.1	42	j.2	11	j.3	5	j.4	0	j.5	0
k.1	11	k.2	32	k.3	11	k.4	0	k.5	5
l.1	32	l.2	21	l.3	0	l.4	0	l.5	0

The top three responses for community goals were:

1. Beautify neighborhood
2. Revitalize Shiloh
3. Inter-community support
4. Improve access to natural areas

III.11 From the list above choose the #1 priority for the community:

a. 0 b. 5 c. 0 d. 16 e. 0 f. 0 g. 11 h. 0 i. 16 j. 21 k. 0 l. 16

**III.12 If the neighborhood could make one change, what do you think it should be?
(Please, write your answer in the space provided)**

- Improve housing in community
- Safety of residents and more police visibility
- Preserve open spaces
- Improve streetscape
- Clean litter
- Develop Shiloh business district