

CHARACTER SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of the Character Survey is to describe the characteristics of different residential areas in Fairfax. By analyzing the character of Fairfax's neighborhoods, and identifying elements of that character that are highly valued by community members, the survey results will support the town's effort to successfully integrate a wider variety of housing types into Fairfax. The survey results will be used to inform future work by the Planning Commission to amend the Fairfax Development Regulations to enable future housing that meets community needs and preferences. Any future amendments to the regulations should reflect essential elements of neighborhood character as they vary across town.

To participate in the survey, take a walk around your immediate neighborhood or along a portion of your street. Look at how the land has been developed and buildings sited in relation to one another and the street. Respond to each of the questions. You can do this on your own or with a group of neighbors. If there are distinct areas within your neighborhood that have different character, you may want to complete a separate form for each area. Write down the street and address range of the area surveyed on each form.

The survey is a list of 20 yes/no questions. For each question, there is a subquestion where you can rate how desirable the current condition is. For example, if you respond 'no' to the question about whether there are sidewalks in most of the neighborhood, you can then indicate whether you think that the lack of sidewalks in the area is alright or not. There is space for brief comments following each question. If you want to make more extensive comments or notes, there is a blank page for that purpose at the end of the survey.

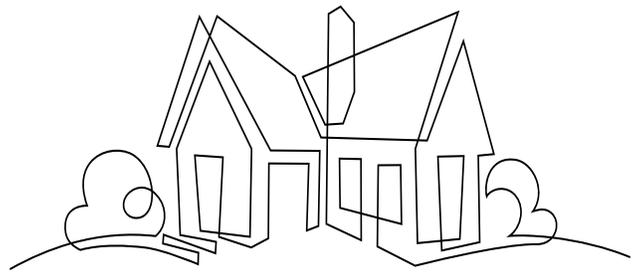
During the Report-Out Workshop on October 20, 5:30pm at the Fairfax Municipal Building, the results from all the character surveys will be compiled to create a picture of neighborhood character around Fairfax. If you have questions, contact Brandy Saxton at brandy@placesense.com or (802) 230-6858. **Please return completed surveys at the Municipal Building or by email (to the address above) no later than October 18.**

Neighborhood being surveyed:

street and address or address range

Surveyed by:

name(s)



CHARACTER SURVEY FORM

1. Most lots in the neighborhood are similar in size and proportion.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

2. Most buildings in the neighborhood are detached single-family homes.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

3. Most houses in the neighborhood are owner occupied.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

4. Most houses in the neighborhood are similar in size.

Yes No

How desirable is that (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

5. The architectural style of houses is similar throughout the neighborhood.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

6. Most houses in the neighborhood have a front door facing the street.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

7. Most houses in the neighborhood have a front porch.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

8. Most houses in the neighborhood are close to the street (<20').

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

9. Most houses in the neighborhood are within 50' of another house.

Yes No

How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Comments:

-
- 10. Many homes in the neighborhood are not visible from the street.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 11. Buildings dominate the view from the street.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 12. Garages or parking dominate the view from the street.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 13. Undeveloped land dominates the view from the street.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 14. There are street trees in most of the neighborhood.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 15. There are sidewalks in most of the neighborhood.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 16. The neighborhood is safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 17. The neighborhood is a good place for families with children to live.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 18. The neighborhood is a good place for older residents to live.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 19. People at different income levels could afford to live in the neighborhood.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:
-
- 20. There is space for more housing in this neighborhood.** Yes No
How desirable is the current condition (1=not desirable, 5=very desirable)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Comments:

