

Springfield Township Comprehensive Plan Focus Area Workbook

*Livable Centers, Safety & Mobility,
and Community Connectedness*



Resources Focus Area Resources

SAFETY & MOBILITY

Resource Table of Contents

- PA MPC Guidance
- 2003 Comprehensive Plan
- Community Feedback/Insight

Topics can include, but aren't limited to:

- Walkability
- Trail networks
- Bike trails
- Traffic calming



Safety & Mobility **PA MPC Guideline**

The PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act of 1968, P.L.805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended states in Article III, Section 301, that the comprehensive plan should include:

A plan for movement of people and goods, which may include **expressways, highways, local street systems, parking facilities, pedestrian and bikeway systems, public transit routes**, terminals, airfields, port facilities, railroad facilities and other similar facilities or uses.



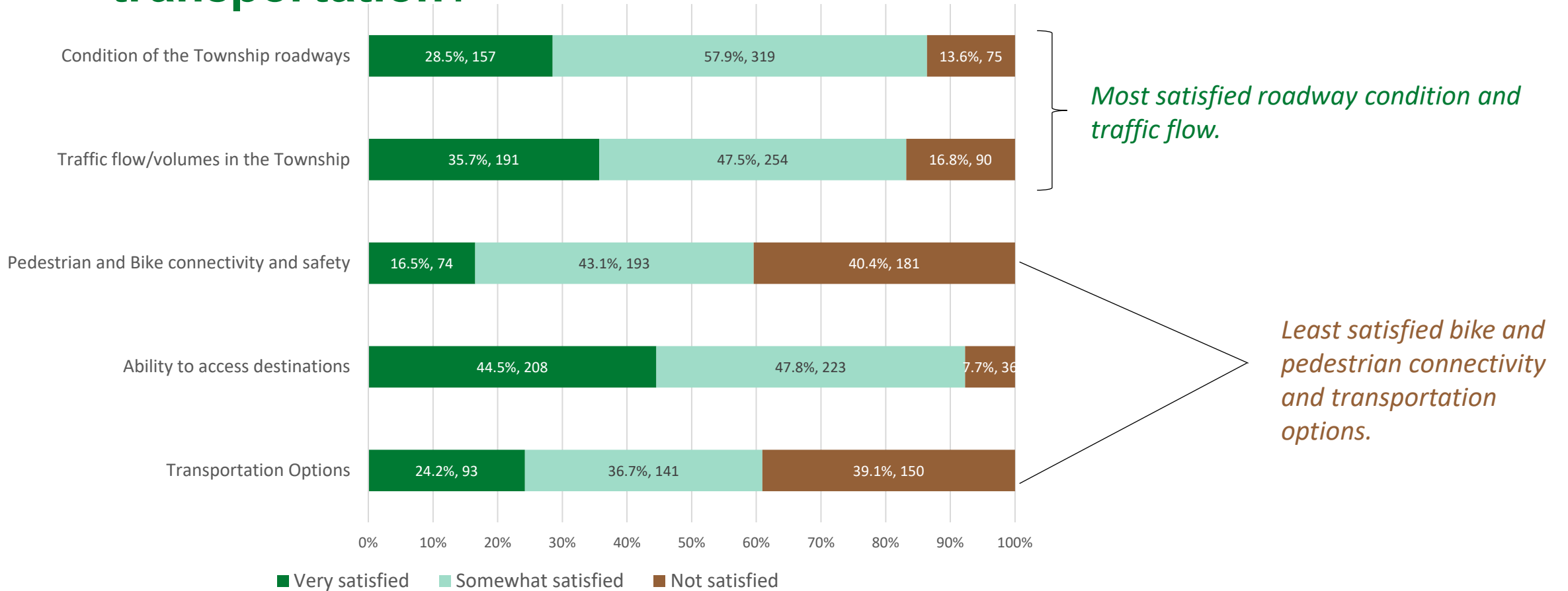
Safety & Mobility **2003 Comprehensive Plan**

- Adopt bike lane requirements (and fees in lieu of bike lanes) for subdivisions or land developments located along designated bike routes.
- Implement traffic calming techniques in village settings where appropriate
- Identify traffic congestion and accident-prone areas in order to develop a capital improvements program for necessary highway improvements
- Evaluate impacts on the road system and identify required off-site improvements necessary to avoid hazardous conditions for major land developments
- Establish dialogue with adjacent communities regarding the need for coordinated improvement to the regional transportation system



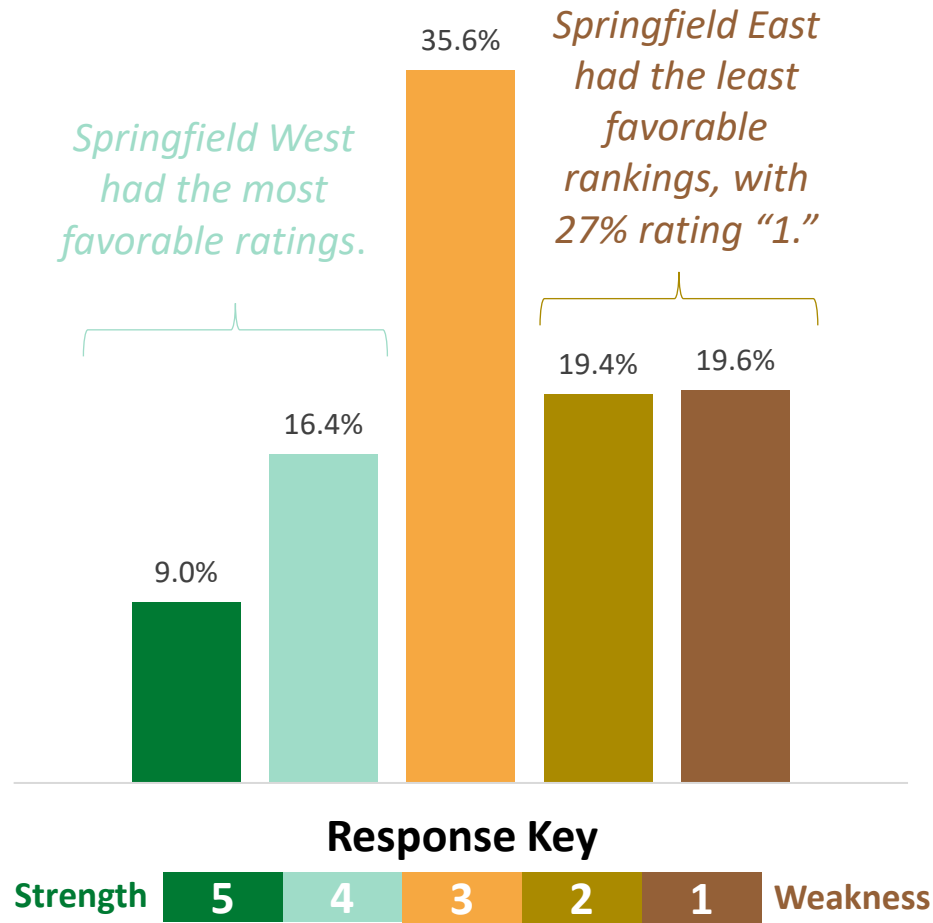
Safety & Mobility **Community Feedback/Insights**

How satisfied are you with the following items related to transportation?



Safety & Mobility Community Feedback/Insights

Rankings for Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity



"Would like better pedestrian connectivity."
"Would love to see more walking/biking paths."

"Walking/bicycling on 412 is impossible, have to drive to get to places and I live in town."

"Peppermint Park is a great resource, but it is disconnected."

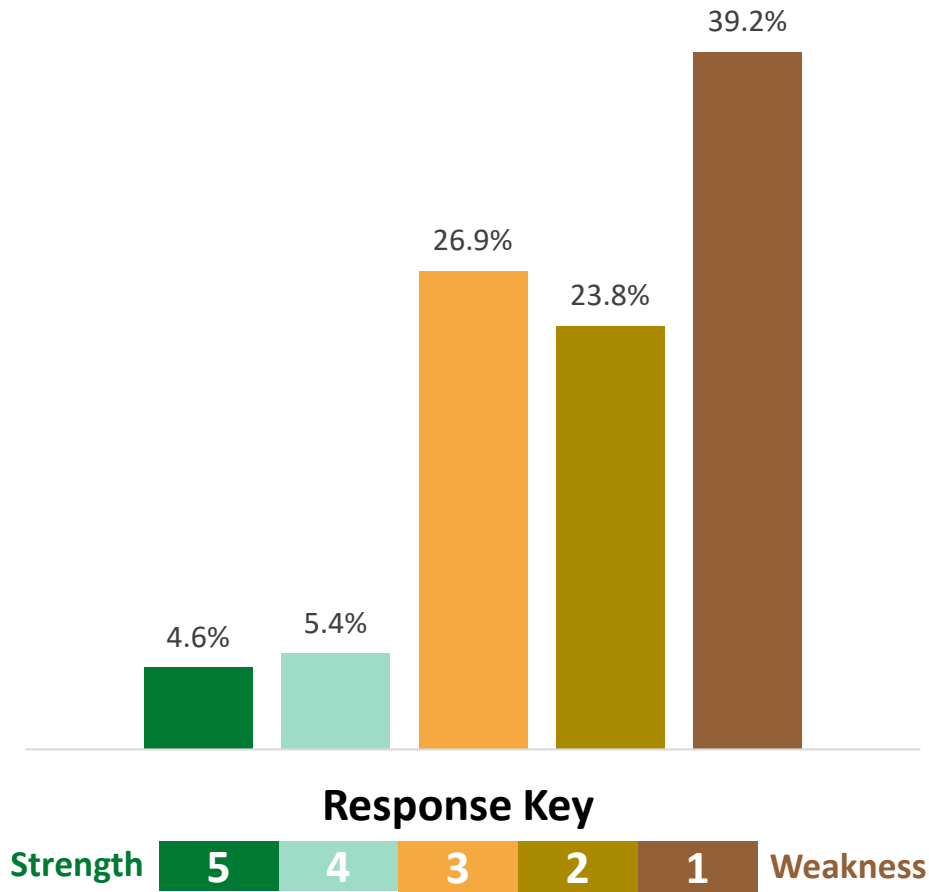
"Lack of resources for young families."

"Not many shoulders to walk/ride on."



Safety & Mobility **Community Feedback/Insights**

Rankings for **Transportation Options**



"Love to see wider roads for bikes."

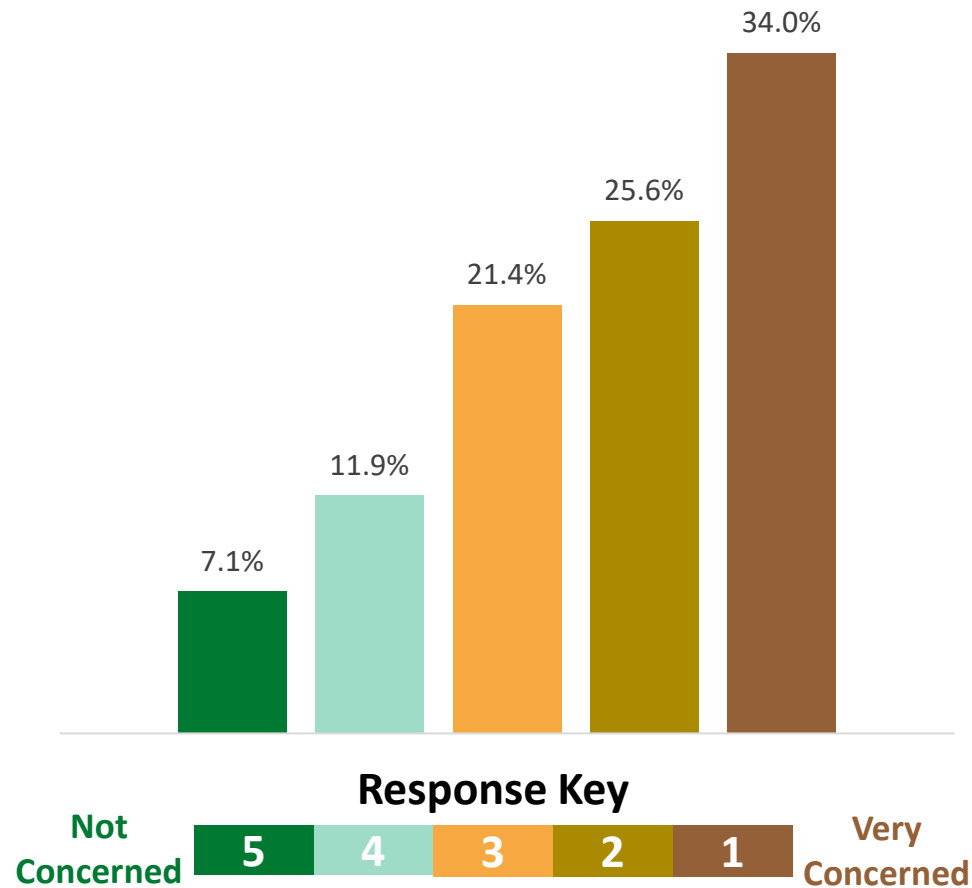
"Moving to this community is a choice, if you want public transportation, this Township is not a wise choice."

"Rural areas don't need public transportation."



Safety & Mobility **Community Feedback/Insights**

Future Concern **Traffic Impacts**



“Truck traffic on 412.”

So much traffic on main roads – 412, 309, 212 in the last 10-15 years.”

“Too many trucks and bad behavior in terms of speed and noise.”

2018 RESULTS

38% of respondents indicated that the Township should do more to enforce speed limits.



Resources Focus Area Resources

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

Resource Table of Contents

- PA MPC Guidance
- 2003 Comprehensive Plan
- Community Feedback/Insight

Topics can include, but aren't limited to:

- Physical gathering spaces (parks, small businesses)
- Community events/civic infrastructure
- Building social resilience



Community Connectedness **PA MPC Guidance**

The PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act of 1968, P.L.805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended states in Article III, Section 301, that the comprehensive plan should include:

A plan for **community facilities** and utilities, which may include **public and private education, recreation**, municipal buildings, fire and police stations, **libraries**, hospitals, water supply and distribution, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste management, storm drainage, and flood plain management, utility corridors and associated facilities, and other similar facilities or uses.



Community Connectedness 2003 Comprehensive Plan

- Revise and adopt the township's park and recreation plan.
- Prepare a master plan for the new township park that identified programs and facilities that will satisfy residents' needs.
- Amend the zoning ordinance to include fees in lieu of recreational facilities for major subdivisions and land developments (following adoption of park and recreation plan).
- Implement the recommendations from the township's open space plan including creating a greenway/trail linkage network that will connect points of interest throughout the township and the region.
- Obtain access easements along the township's designated greenway/trail linkages network.
- Provide small information parks near villages.
- Reestablish a Park and Recreation Board to assist in these efforts
- Implement recommendations from open space plan including creating a greenway/trail linkage network that will connect points of interest throughout the township and region
- Obtain access easements along designated greenway/trail linkages network
- Monitor progress of Quakertown-Stony Creek Rail restoration and provide input into the planning process



Community Connectedness **Community Feedback/Insights**

How could the Township improve communication?

Website

- While website has been improved, it needs to be updated more frequently.
- Need a search function because website is difficult to navigate.
- Website isn't user friendly.

Email/Text

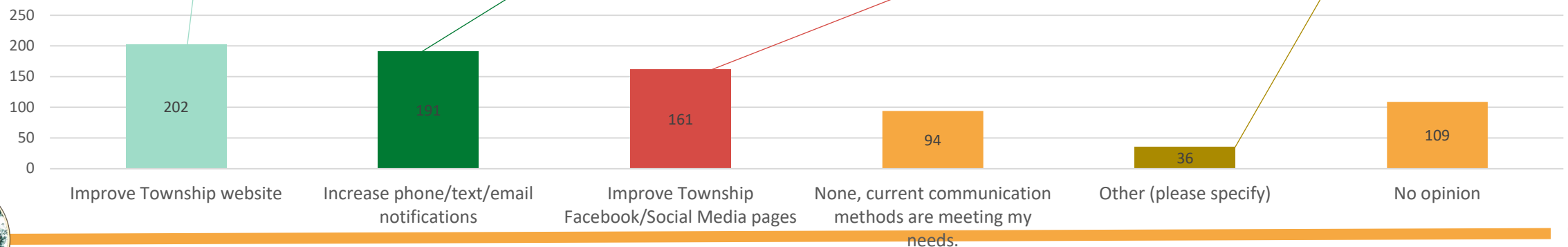
- Email notifications of events.
- More frequent email communication.
- Some respondents prefer email while others suggested text notifications being more helpful.
- Texts for emergency notifications.

Social Media

- Some respondents noted that they don't use social media.
- Suggestion to have a Facebook group in addition to the Twp. page to facilitate conversation between residents.

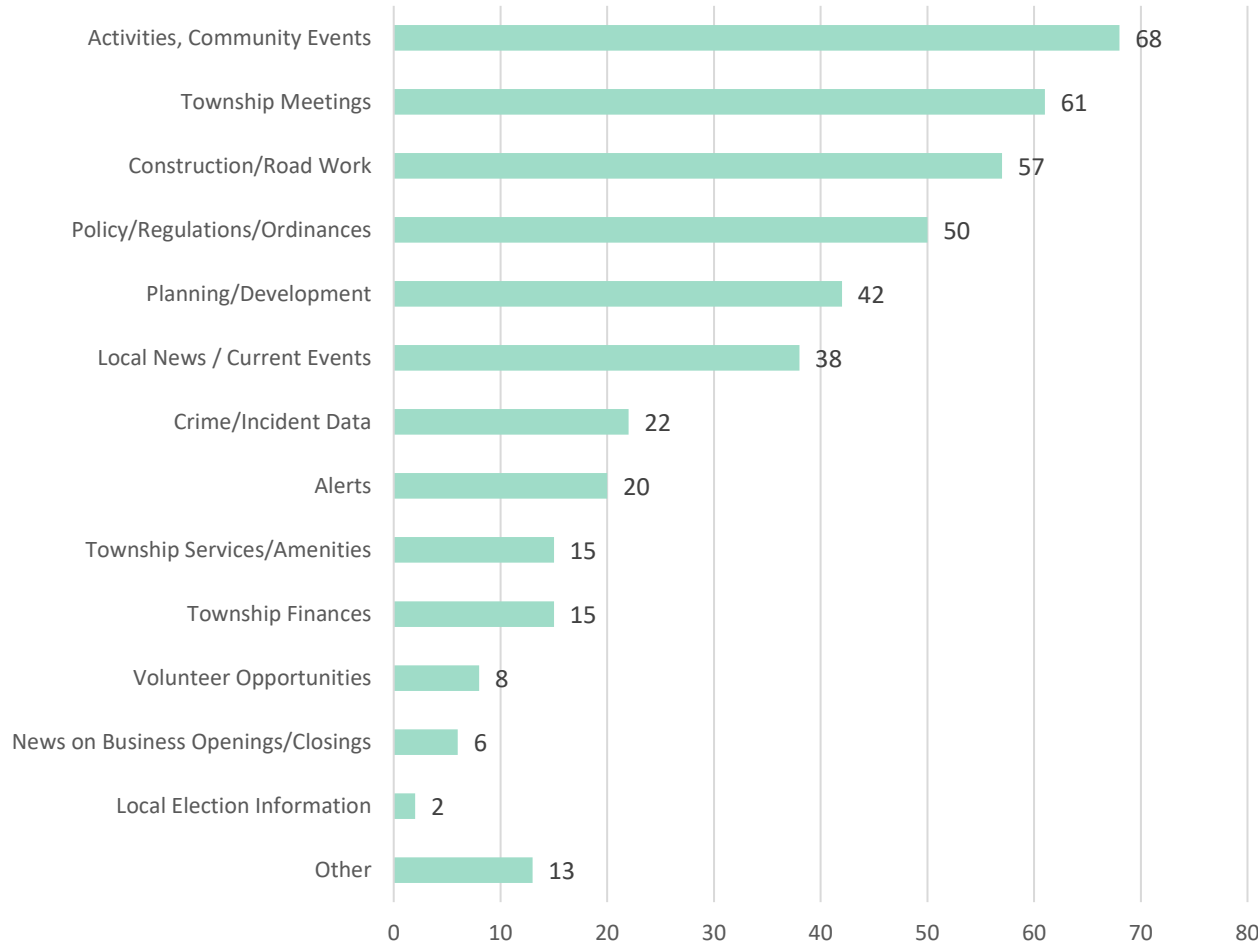
Other

- The Township has access to a dedicated cable channel which it does not use. It could broadcast important meetings and/or use Zoom or an equivalent service.
- Need more communication about impacts near property (zoning, road work, etc.).
- More physical mailings for people who don't use internet.



Community Connectedness **Community Feedback/Insights**

What information would you like to receive from the Township?



Local News and Current Events

- Activities, Community Events
- Local News/Current Events
- News on Business Openings/Closings
- Volunteer Opportunities

Township Process, Meetings, Planning, Development, and Policy Changes

- Policy/Regulations/ Ordinances
- Planning/Development
- Township Finances
- Township Meetings

Township Services and Alerts

- Alerts
- Construction/Road Work
- Crime/Incident Data
- Township Services/Amenities



Community Connectedness **Community Feedback/Insights**

What types of activities/events would you like to see endorsed by the Township?

Community-wide Events

- More events on in the west area of Township
- Ag Day, Earth Day, etc.
- Return of the carnival
- Outdoor activities
- Township-wide garage sale
- Clean ups
- Fundraiser events for community projects
- Community pool

Adult Events

- Events for adults with disabilities (activity & socializing).
- Adult exercise classes
- Pickleball

Youth Events

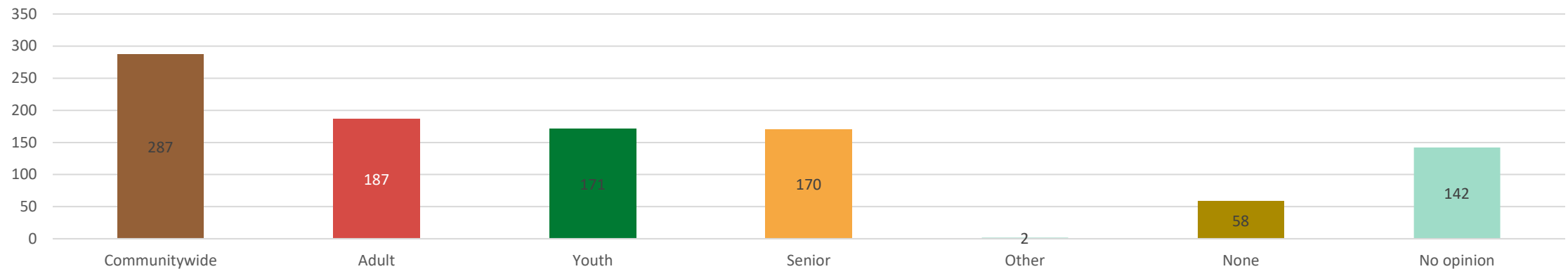
- Need community events for youth (not just school events)
- Civics activities (4H, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.)
- Sporting events
- Non-sporting activities
- Outdoor places for play
- Gathering areas for teens

Senior Events

- Improved senior center
- Tai chi
- Game nights
- Group hikes/bike rides
- Online space to connect over hobbies

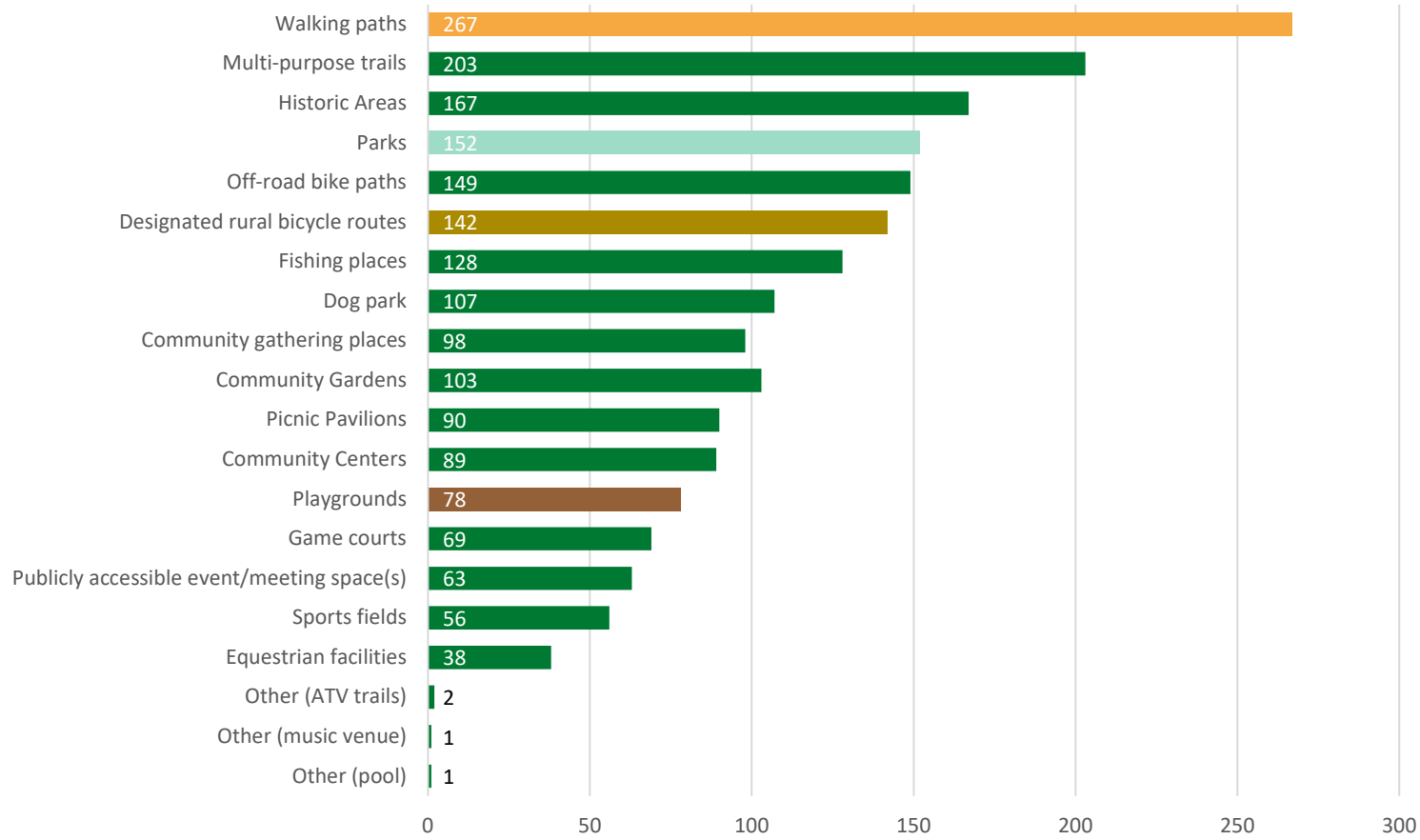
No Events

- The Township does not need to provide community events as a service
- Already enough events
- Not interested in any events



Community Connectedness **Community Feedback/Insights**

In addition to what is already existing, what kinds of publicly accessible recreation opportunities, if any, would members of your household like to have in Springfield Township?



"I don't think we need to make more playgrounds, but where existing ones are could be more friendly to visit like a pavilion at Springfield the town and school could use."

"I would enjoy walking on paths that I wouldn't have to drive to get there."

"I'd love wider area roads/ bike lanes safer to bike on. Try riding a bike on 412 and it's awful."

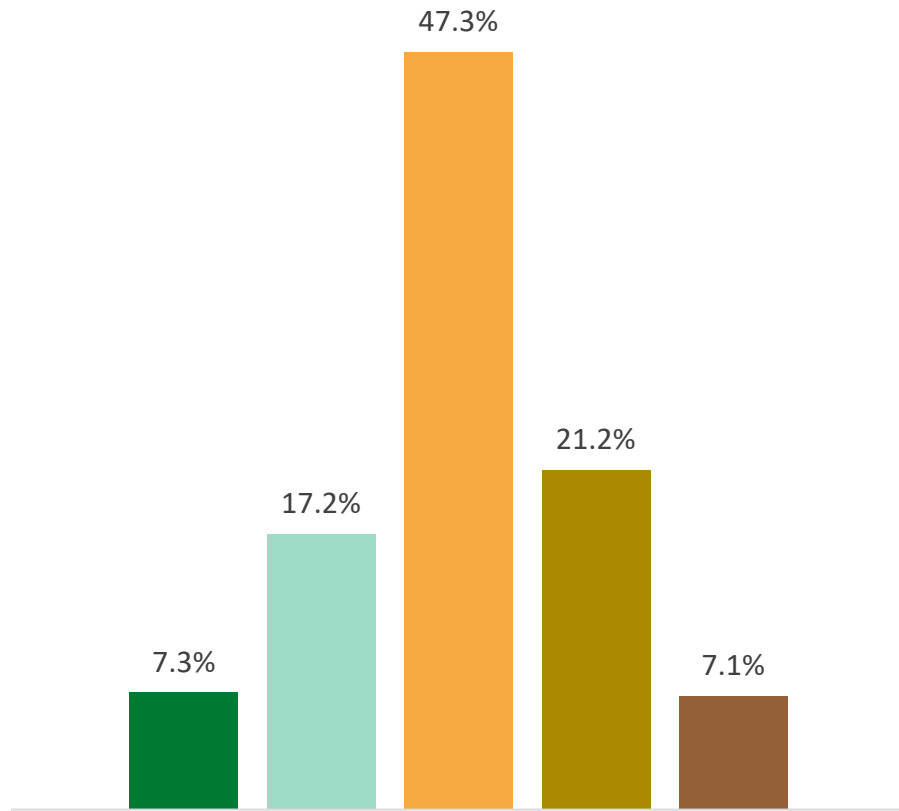
"Memorial park would make a great place for community garden and maybe some disk golf."



*Consistent with 2018 survey results

Community Connectedness Community Feedback/Insights

Rankings for Community Connectedness



"Would be nice if local businesses and non-profits were promoted."

"Most opportunities are through school/extracurricular activities – what about senior citizens?"

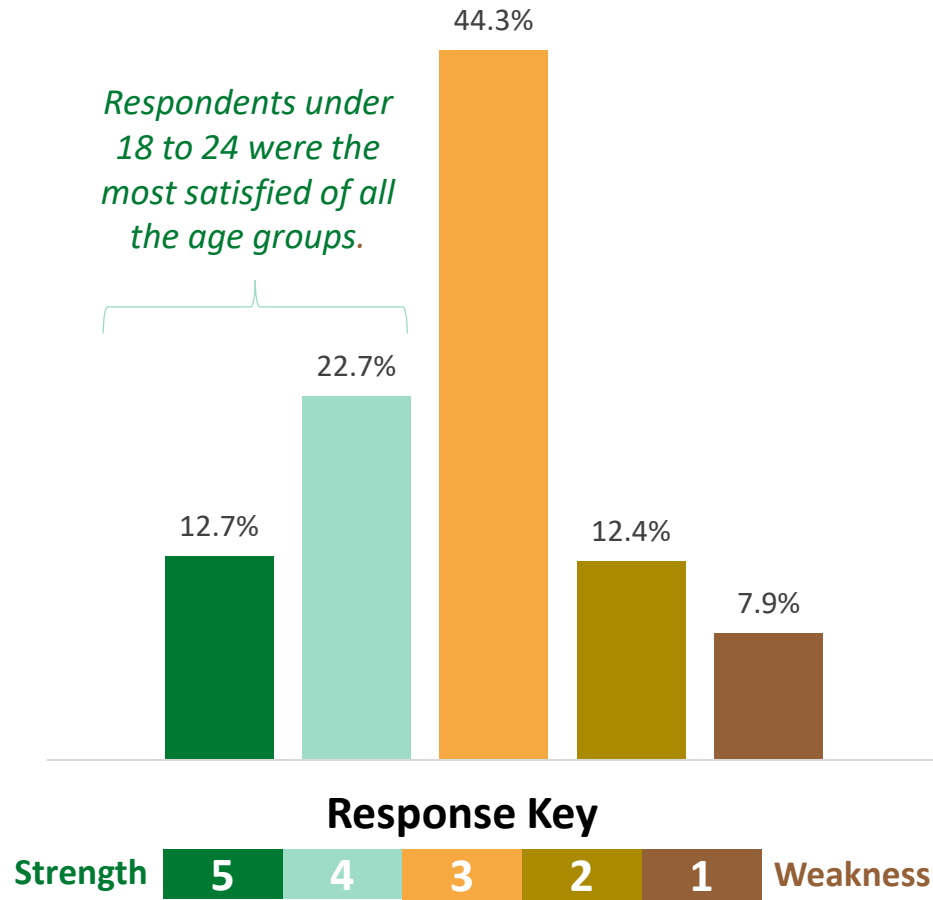
Response Key

Strength **5** **4** **3** **2** **1** Weakness



Community Connectedness **Community Feedback/Insights**

Rankings for **Recreational Resources/Activities**



“Enjoy local businesses (Springtown Hotel, Silver Creek, etc.) but would be good to see more commerce/recreational business activities.”

“Not enough parks/walking trails”

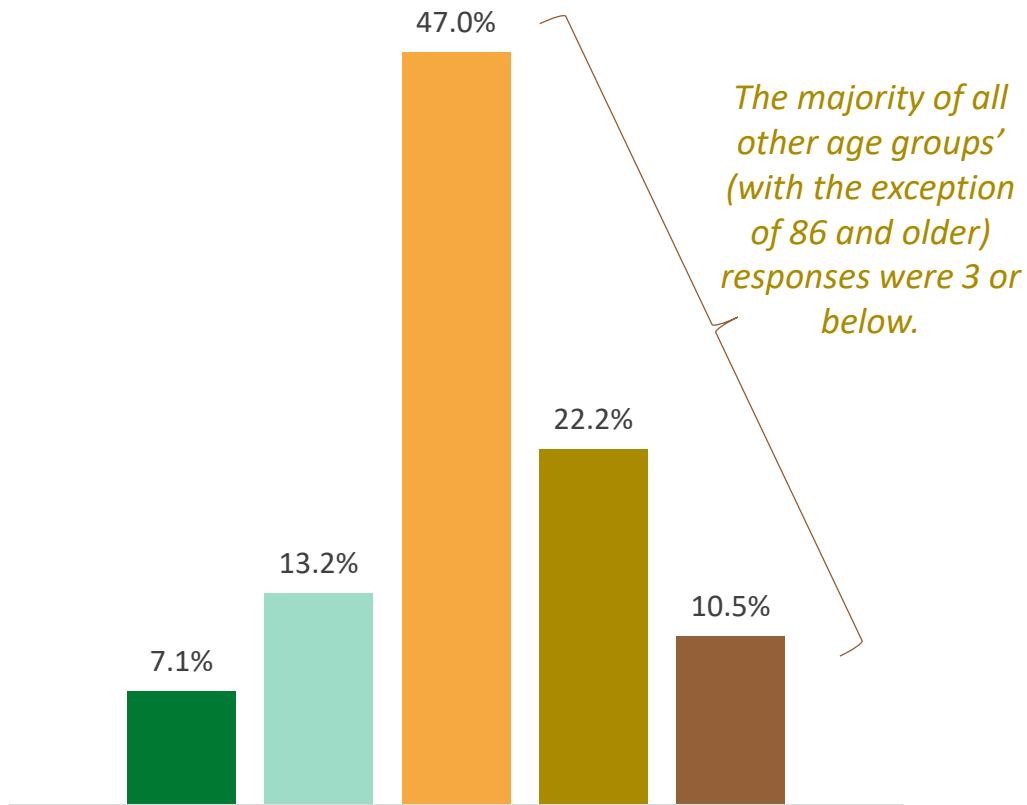
“Need more resources for residents.”

“Lack of resources for young families.”



Community Connectedness Community Feedback/Insights

Rankings for Programming and Events



"Many places are private clubs. How do new residents learn about them or how to join?"

"More outdoor senior activities."

2018 RESULTS

94% respondents were interested in **more community events**. **53%** wanted **Community Day** to continue.

Event ideas mentioned in 2018 survey: farmers' markets, fireworks, nature walks, festivals, open barn tours, etc.



Community Connectedness Parks & Recreation Plan

There is a **Springfield Township Parks & Recreation Plan** that was adopted in 2013. Goals include:

- **Goal 1: Establish parks and recreation facilities as community destinations where residents can have fun, experience nature, socialize, and exercise in harmony with nature and environmental conservation.**
 - Provide adequate parkland for present and future residents.
 - Continue the work on developing the concept plan for Peppermint Road Park.
 - Explore a partnership with the Silver Creek Athletic Association (SCAA) in the establishment of the organization's site and facilities as an official public park. Finalize the agreement with PPL regarding the configuration for the future park on Hickon Road.
 - Develop a master plan for the future park on Hickon Road.
 - Explore the establishment of community school parks with the Palisades School District.
 - Design, develop, and maintain the parks as public spaces that are safe, clean, ready to use and beautiful.
 - Design parks to be sustainable both environmentally and financially.
 - Provide accessible trails, viewing areas, and other accommodations to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **Goal 2: Connect our community through a system of trails.**
 - Plan a network of trails throughout Springfield Township to link residential areas, schools, parks, recreation facilities and other community destinations.
 - Develop the trail network.

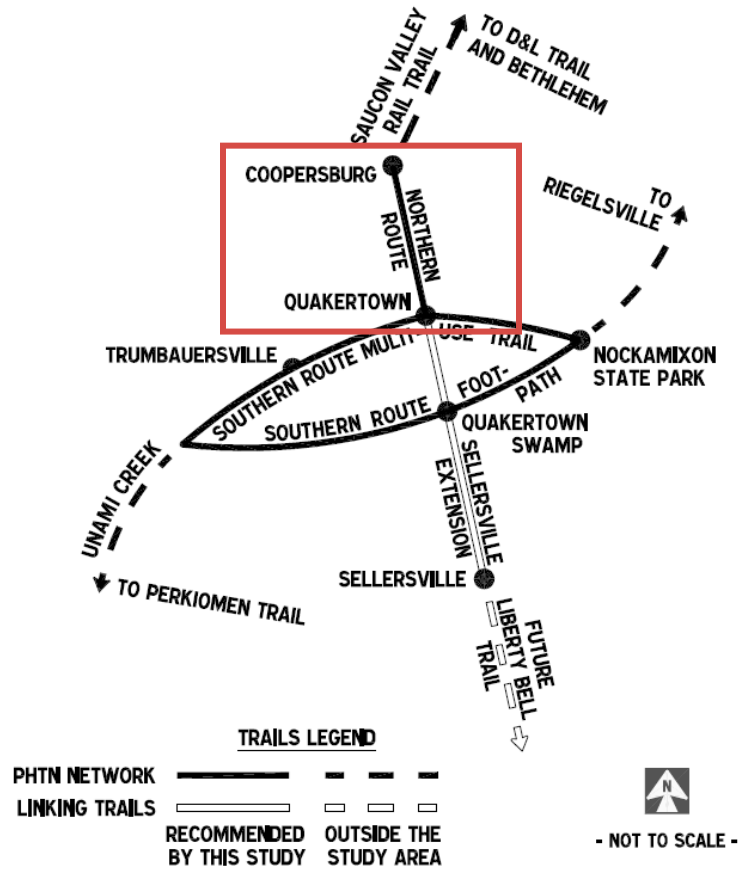


Community Connectedness Parks & Recreation Plan

- **Goal 3: Facilitate recreation opportunities for the citizens to engage in active healthy living.**
 - Collect and provide information to the citizens about recreation opportunities in the community.
 - Coordinate programs offered by community based providers with township operations and ensure that the programs comply with operating procedures that are in the best interest of the community.
 - Build upon community nature based recreation opportunities with the Environmental Advisory Commission.
 - Provide and promote recreation opportunities aimed at improving lifelong fitness and wellness.
 - Develop and implement an advertising program to enhance and increase community awareness about parks and recreation.
- **Goal 4: Provide operational excellence and financial stability that will garner widespread public support for parks and recreation.**
 - Establish the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Board.
 - Develop a partnership programs for parks and recreation.
 - Develop a written maintenance management system.
 - Produce an annual report for parks and recreation.
 - Establish an employee development program.
 - Support parks and recreation through a mix of public and private funding.
 - Adopt a Mandatory Dedication of Parkland Ordinance for parks and recreation.



Community Connectedness PA Highlands Trail Network



**PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS TRAIL NETWORK
QUAKERTOWN REGION RECOMMENDED TRAILS MAP**

December 5, 2013
Quakertown Region Master Trail Plan Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Segment 1

There is a Master Trail Plan for the Quakertown Region of the PA Highlands Trail Network from 2013. The Northern Route of the proposed multi-use trail connects Coopersburg with Quakertown through Springfield Township.

The trail is proposed along unused train tracks on SEPTA-owned right-of-way through Coopersburg, Upper Saucon, Springfield Twp., and Richland Twp.



Resources Focus Area Resources

LIVABLE CENTERS

Resource Table of Contents

- PA MPC Guidance
- 2003 Comprehensive Plan
- Community Feedback/Insight

Topics can include, but aren't limited to:

- Village revitalization
- Adaptive reuse and redevelopment
- Local and small business/jobs
- Walkability



Livable Centers **PA MPC Guideline**

The PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Act of 1968, P.L.805, No. 247 as reenacted and amended states in Article III, Section 301, that the comprehensive plan should include:

A plan to **meet the housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality**, which may include conservation of presently sound housing, rehabilitation of housing in declining neighborhoods and the accommodation of expected new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels.

A plan for land use, which may include provisions for the **amount, intensity, character and timing of land use proposed for residence, industry, business, agriculture, major traffic and transit facilities, utilities, community facilities, public grounds, parks and recreation**, preservation of prime agricultural lands, flood plains and other areas of special hazards and other similar uses



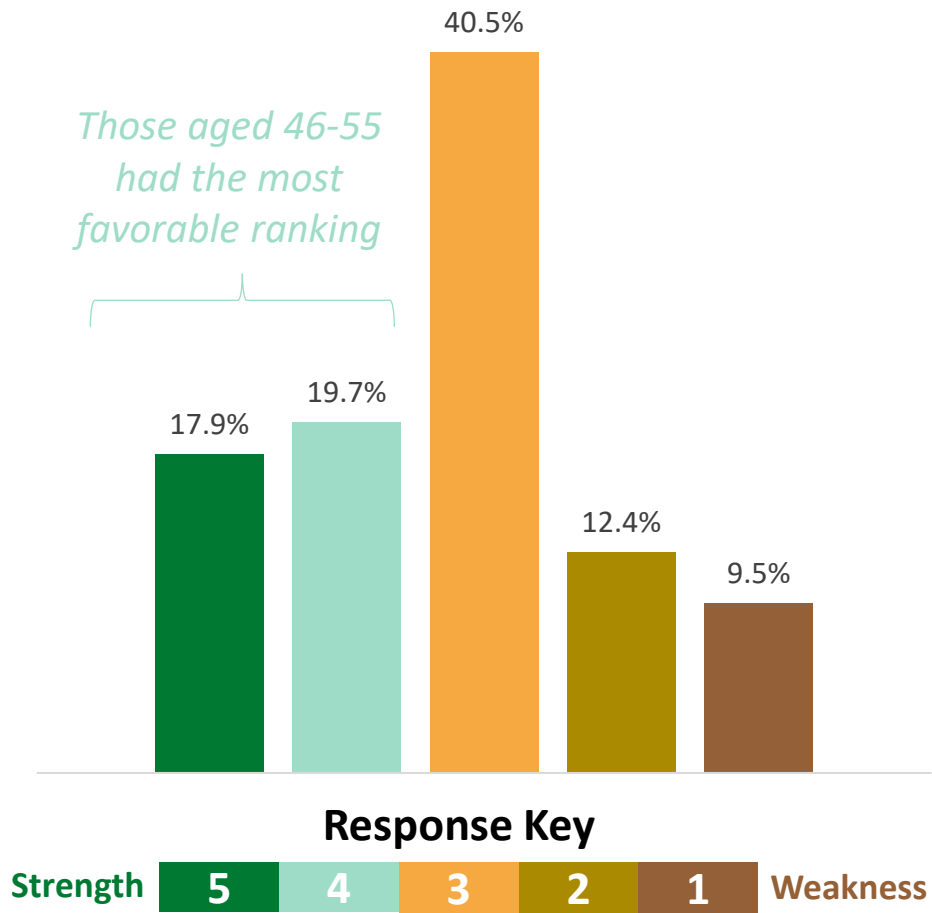
Livable Centers **2003 Comprehensive Plan**

- Revise zoning ordinance to provide for appropriate senior housing opportunities (i.e. independent living facilities, assisted living, skilled nursing facility, etc.) through the creation of a new zoning district (i.e., Central Business District)
- Amend the zoning ordinance to create a new zoning district (i.e. Central Business District) that provides an additional commercial and office uses within a mixed-use residential and nonresidential setting
- Maintain high standards that control nuisances such as objectionable noise, odors, smoke, and hazardous materials in local ordinances
- Implement traffic calming techniques in village settings where appropriate
- Amend zoning ordinance to provide special provisions in the existing VR and VC district for village of Springtown based upon recommendations of the Springtown Village Study (2000).
- Separate village studies should be conducted for the remaining villages (Zion Hill, Pleasant Valley, Passer).



Livable Centers **Community Feedback/Insights**

Rankings for **Diversity of Housing Types**



“Great schools, but housing options do not encourage or allow young families to move to the Township.”

“Is there any 'senior housing? It is a shame seniors have to leave their home area once they can no longer stay in their home.”

“Maintain the 3-acre minimum on residents.”

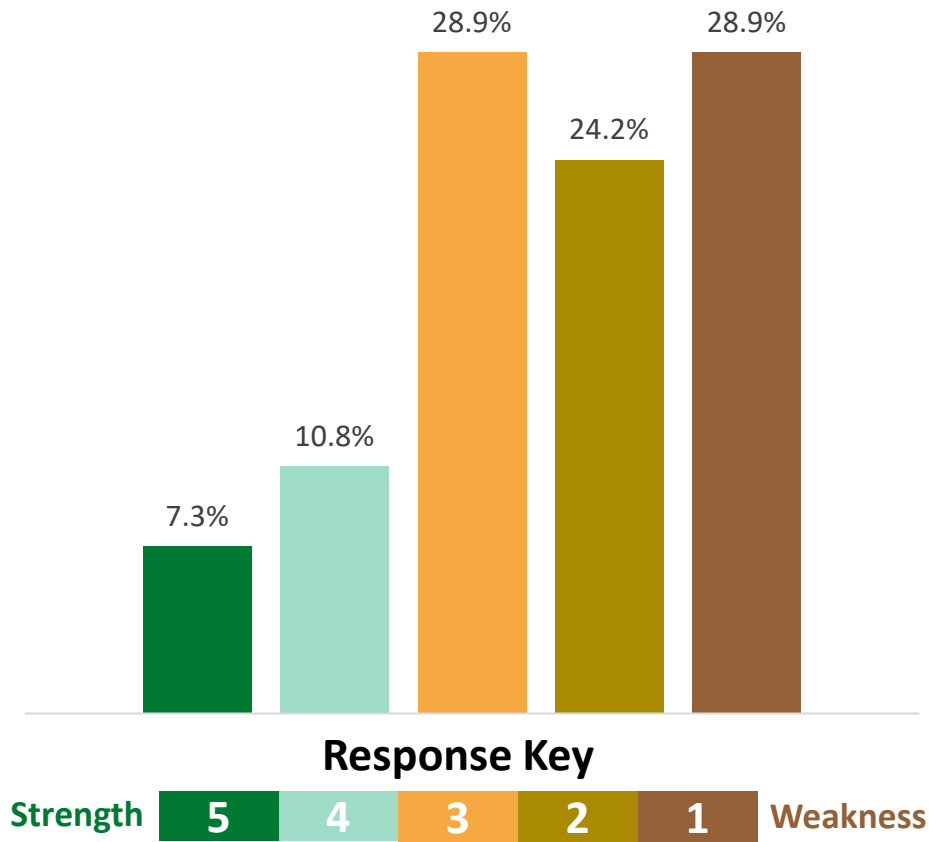
“Lack of smaller homes and ranch homes.”

“Accommodation of diverse housing types is welcome, such as courtyard housing in rural areas and apartment over storefronts in Springtown.”



Livable Centers **Community Feedback/Insights**

Rankings for **Variety of Retail/Shopping**



"Would love a general store/basic needs store."

"Very happy that there is no industrial/retail here."

"Do not want to see shopping centers/industrial warehouses."

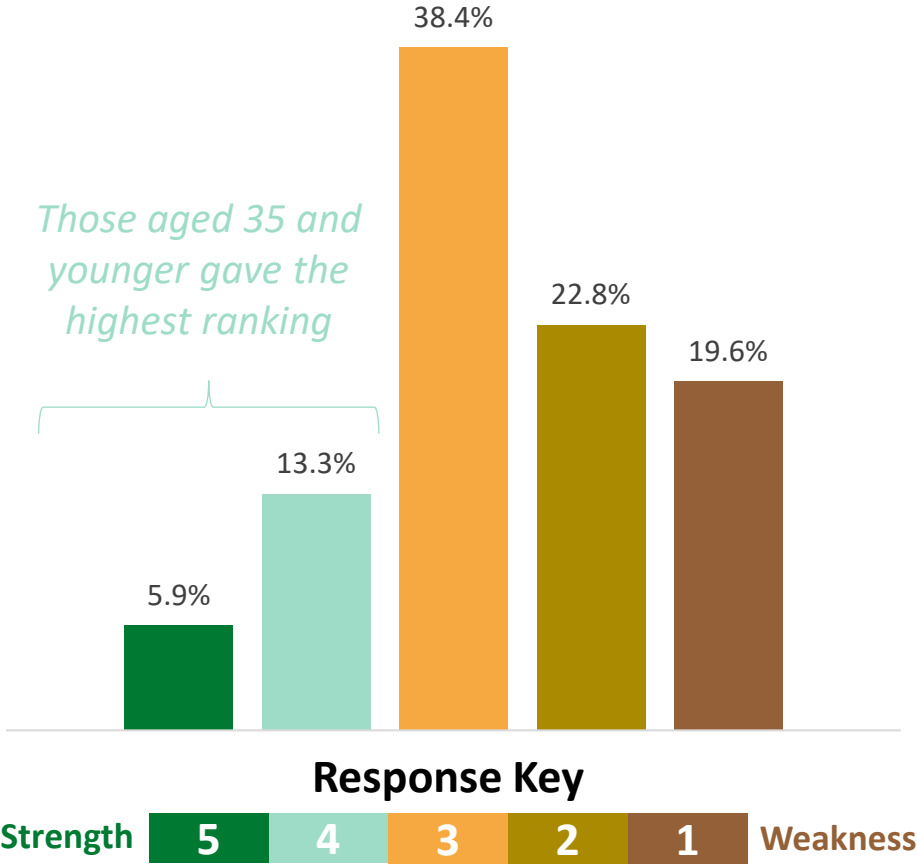
"Springfield township is perfect without it!"

"Would like to see Springtown Center developed for a retail space, coffee shop, etc.."



Livable Centers **Community Feedback/Insights**

Rankings for **Job Opportunities**



"No jobs to employ the young people we don't have anymore."

"Don't think Township is set up to have businesses here."

"Plenty of jobs in a 15-mile radius."

