

## Questionnaire Results Summary

O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough Joint Long-Range Plan  
September 2022

### Background

The Community Questionnaire is a major component of public engagement that will inform the selection and framing of Key Issues at the heart of the Joint Long-Range Plan for O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough. Plan consultant Pashek+MTR workshopped the questions included in the questionnaire with the plan's appointed Joint Committee, seeking to collect input that could inform direction for the future of both communities.

The Joint Committee launched the questionnaire simultaneously with a publicity effort on multiple fronts to introduce the project and inspire residents to become involved. Responses were most prolific in June 2022, the first month of publicity, and tapered in July before increasing as a result of final get-the-word-out activities in August. The questionnaire closed on August 31.

Publicity included mailing a postcard to every household within the two communities twice – once in June to introduce the questionnaire and website, and then again in August to remind residents to respond prior to the August 31 deadline. It also included (but was not limited to):

- Promotion on municipal social media, newsletters and Savvy Citizen
- Joint Committee members spreading the word through their networks
- A series of pop-up engagements at community events and gathering spaces
- Printed surveys with dropboxes at key locations
- Proliferation of project materials in visible spaces around the communities, including posters, flyers, yard signs, window stickers and business cards
- Coverage in *The Herald* at the outset and conclusion of the questionnaire's open dates
- Publicity through partner groups and their newsletters, including a presentation to the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area and a feature in its e-newsletter and a targeted email blast from the Audubon Society to 1,300 on its list within O'Hara and Fox Chapel ZIP codes
- A "Shave Ice and Sneak Preview" event at O'Hara Community Park on August 16 to encourage residents to complete the questionnaire. The event was also an occasion to invite community members to interface with the committee and project team, learn more about the project and view preliminary questionnaire results.

## Response rate

The questionnaire received a total of 1,345 responses, including both those entered online and those submitted on paper forms. In validating the data, Pashek+MTR flagged any IP address (the address of an individual device) associated with four or more responses for further analysis, acknowledging that multiple responses from the same device could represent multiple members of the same household or different responses from a public location, such as a library computer. A detailed review of the results from such devices indicated that they were unique and unlikely to be the result of any effort to unduly influence results.

While the large number of total responses provides a rich and incredibly useful data set for the Joint Committee’s review, it is worth noting that the questionnaire was not intended to achieve statistically valid results, as its sample was not random.

The breakdown of responses by community was as follows:

Description	Responses	% of total responses	Responses as % of 2020 municipal population	Responses as % of 2020 municipal total households*
I live in O’Hara Township	650	48.3%	7.1%	16.8%
I live in Fox Chapel Borough	491	36.5%	9.3%	28.5%
I live and own a business in O’Hara Township or Fox Chapel Borough	37	2.8%		
I live in a neighboring community and am interested in planning for the two communities	27	2.0%		

*Note: 140 respondents chose not to identify their community.*

*\*Responses were not limited to one per household*

## Findings

Pashek+MTR summarized the most notable responses to the questionnaire. For additional tabulations and much more detail in qualitative comments, see the full questionnaire printout.

A group of Joint Committee volunteers led analysis of the thousands of comments received in response to open-ended questions (Q2, Q4, Q5, Q9, Q10, Q15). Pashek+MTR set up a methodology for reviewing responses and discerning and interpreting the themes among responses. The results here reflect the themes most commonly mentioned.

**Q1 How important are each of these aspects of our community to you today? (1,344 responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects (Very Important) were, in order:

1. 84.29% Safe, healthy community to live in
2. 69.16% Well-run local government
3. 67.54% Schools/higher education
4. 58.40% Availability of quality medical facilities
5. 54.04% Parks, recreation, sports, things to do

The lowest-ranking five aspects were (Not Important), in order:

1. 33.18% Place of worship
2. 28.49% Public transportation options
3. 20.41% Job or work opportunities
4. 15.26% Access/proximity to the river
5. 13.66% Lauri Ann West Community Center

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (650 Responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects (Very Important) were, in order:

1. 84.28% Safe, healthy community to live in
2. 70.48% Well-run local government
3. 65.38% Schools/higher education
4. 59.41% Availability of quality medical facilities
5. 53.47% Parks, recreation, sports, things to do

The lowest-ranking five aspects were (Not Important), in order:

1. 31.02% Place of worship
2. 23.30% Public transportation options
3. 18.58% Job or work opportunities
4. 16.69% Access/proximity to the river
5. 12.38% Lauri Ann West Community Center

**Fox Chapel Borough (490 Responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects (Very Important) were, in order:

1. 84.60% Safe, healthy community to live in
2. 68.85% Well-run local government
3. 68.65% Schools/higher education
4. 57.46% Availability of quality medical facilities
5. 57.26% Living in/near wooded areas

The lowest-ranking five aspects were (Not Important), in order:

1. 37.22% Place of worship
2. 35.97% Public transportation options
3. 24.90% Job or work opportunities
4. 14.58% Lauri Ann West Community Center
5. 13.91% Access/proximity to the river

**Q2 Think about what you like most about where you live. If you were explaining to a friend why they should move to your neighborhood, what would you tell them? (1,106 responses)**

Most common themes:

- Proximity to cultural locations and Downtown Pittsburgh
- Overall feeling of safety and peace within the communities
- Friendly and neighborly residents
- High-quality school district
- Emphasis on green space and nature including parks and trails

*Responses by community:*

**O'Hara Township: 543**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 421**

**Q3 How important to you are the following issues in the communities as we move forward? (1,257 responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 75.78% Community Safety
2. 57.89% Stormwater management/flooding prevention
3. 53.75% Collaboration with the school district
4. 50.08% Establishing walkable and bikeable communities
5. 49.08% Evaluation of infrastructure needs

The lowest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 18.24% Evaluation of public transportation needs
2. 16.28% Working toward the use of zero-carbon energy sources
3. 11.92% Development and redevelopment opportunities
4. 9.75% Attracting businesses in O'Hara Township
5. 4.95% Preservation of historical assets

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (648 Responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 78.17% Community Safety
2. 60.28% Stormwater management/flooding prevention
3. 55.81% Collaboration with the school district
4. 51.08% Evaluation of infrastructure needs
5. 49.61% Collaboration between the two communities to reach common goals

The lowest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 14.29% Evaluation of public transportation needs
2. 13.62% Working toward the use of zero-carbon energy sources
3. 7.61% Development and redevelopment opportunities
4. 7.11% Attracting businesses in O'Hara Township
5. 3.88% Preservation of historical assets

**Fox Chapel Borough (489 Responses)**

The highest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 73.25% Community Safety
2. 54.21% Stormwater management/flooding prevention
3. 52.56% Establishing walkable and bikeable communities
4. 52.25% Collaboration with the school district
5. 48.36% Evaluation of infrastructure needs

The lowest-ranking five aspects were, in order:

1. 23.82% Evaluation of public transportation needs
2. 17.86% Working toward the use of zero-carbon energy sources
3. 17.08% Development and redevelopment opportunities
4. 13.20% Attracting businesses in O'Hara Township
5. 7.57% Preservation of historical assets

**Q4 What three things would like to see change in your community? (1,005 responses)**

A majority of respondents stated they would like to see the following change in their community:

- More active transportation opportunities including improved sidewalks and more walking and biking trails
- Traffic calming and congestion including speed enforcement, traffic reduction, and improved public transportation
- Stormwater management and flood prevention

*Responses by community:*

**O'Hara Township: 512**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 409**

**Q5 What three things does our community do best? (938 responses)**

Respondents mentioned the following as the things their community does best:

- Green space preservation and prevention of overdevelopment
- Parks and recreation availability and maintenance
- Public services such as snow removal and road maintenance
- Public safety such as police, EMT, and fire

*Responses by community:*

**O'Hara Township: 469**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 392**

**Q6 How often do you, including family members, visit the following parks? (1,212 responses)**

	<b>Do Not</b>	<b>1-5 Times/Year</b>	<b>6-10 Times/Year</b>	<b>11-20 Times/Year</b>	<b>Frequently</b>
<b>Beulah Frey Park</b>	67.9%	18.9%	3.7%	3.2%	6.4%
<b>George J. Sacco Park</b>	84.7%	11.4%	2.0%	0.7%	1.3%
<b>Hardie Valley Park</b>	57.6%	22.8%	8.8%	2.8%	8.0%
<b>McCahill Park</b>	40.5%	28.6%	11.1%	7.5%	12.2%
<b>Meadow Park</b>	62.8%	20.0%	6.7%	3.4%	7.0%
<b>O'Hara Township Community Park</b>	8.2%	19.7%	17.7%	17.3%	37.1%
<b>Raymond A. Schafer Jr. Memorial Park</b>	89.3%	6.2%	1.3%	1.2%	2.0%
<b>Riding Meadow Park</b>	55.0%	21.0%	8.6%	4.1%	11.3%
<b>Salamander Park</b>	37.7%	33.7%	13.0%	6.6%	9.0%
<b>Scott Park</b>	60.2%	23.0%	6.8%	3.8%	6.2%
<b>Woodland Park</b>	77.5%	12.2%	4.2%	2.0%	4.0%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (643 Responses)**

	<b>Do Not</b>	<b>1-5 Times/Year</b>	<b>6-10 Times/Year</b>	<b>11-20 Times/Year</b>	<b>Frequently</b>
<b>Beulah Frey Park</b>	63.6%	20.3%	4.6%	4.1%	7.4%
<b>George J. Sacco Park</b>	78.4%	15.6%	3.0%	1.1%	1.9%
<b>Hardie Valley Park</b>	73.6%	15.5%	5.3%	1.3%	4.4%
<b>McCahill Park</b>	47.8%	25.9%	8.3%	7.4%	11.0%
<b>Meadow Park</b>	57.3%	22.7%	6.9%	4.2%	8.9%
<b>O'Hara Township Community Park</b>	5.8%	19.6%	18.2%	17.3%	39.2%
<b>Raymond A. Schafer Jr. Memorial Park</b>	85.7%	8.0%	1.9%	1.6%	2.7%
<b>Riding Meadow Park</b>	64.2%	20.7%	6.5%	1.9%	6.7%
<b>Salamander Park</b>	42.1%	32.0%	12.9%	6.2%	6.8%
<b>Scott Park</b>	69.9%	18.4%	5.5%	2.7%	3.6%
<b>Woodland Park</b>	71.8%	14.5%	5.1%	2.6%	6.1%

**Fox Chapel Borough (487 Responses)**

	<b>Do Not</b>	<b>1-5 Times/Year</b>	<b>6-10 Times/Year</b>	<b>11-20 Times/Year</b>	<b>Frequently</b>
<b>Beulah Frey Park</b>	72.7%	17.1%	2.3%	2.5%	5.4%
<b>George J. Sacco Park</b>	92.8%	6.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
<b>Hardie Valley Park</b>	36.3%	33.2%	12.7%	4.8%	13.0%
<b>McCahill Park</b>	31.0%	32.9%	13.7%	8.3%	14.1%
<b>Meadow Park</b>	69.1%	16.3%	6.8%	2.8%	5.0%
<b>O'Hara Township Community Park</b>	10.5%	19.8%	16.5%	18.0%	35.1%
<b>Raymond A. Schafer Jr. Memorial Park</b>	94.3%	3.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
<b>Riding Meadow Park</b>	42.4%	21.7%	10.8%	7.3%	17.8%
<b>Salamander Park</b>	31.6%	36.6%	12.8%	7.6%	11.4%
<b>Scott Park</b>	48.3%	29.1%	8.0%	5.2%	9.4%
<b>Woodland Park</b>	84.8%	9.1%	3.4%	1.3%	1.5%

**Q7 Where do you think O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough should focus their parks and recreation efforts in the future? (1,215 responses)**

	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Not Necessary</b>
<b>Protect open space and natural resources</b>	57.9%	33.2%	6.6%	2.2%
<b>Develop walking and biking trails that connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses</b>	54.5%	26.6%	12.6%	6.3%
<b>Improve amenities in existing parks</b>	23.0%	42.2%	27.7%	7.2%
<b>Expand recreation programs and activities at the community center, library, etc.</b>	22.5%	37.8%	31.9%	7.7%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (648 Responses)**

	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Not Necessary</b>
<b>Protect open space and natural resources</b>	52.3%	36.7%	8.3%	2.8%
<b>Develop walking and biking trails that connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses</b>	54.3%	26.8%	14.2%	4.8%
<b>Improve amenities in existing parks</b>	27.0%	43.3%	25.9%	3.9%
<b>Expand recreation programs and activities at the community center, library, etc.</b>	26.2%	38.2%	29.6%	6.1%



**Fox Chapel Borough (487 Responses)**

	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Not Necessary</b>
<b>Protect open space and natural resources</b>	65.2%	28.4%	4.8%	1.7%
<b>Develop walking and biking trails that connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses</b>	56.8%	24.6%	9.7%	8.9%
<b>Improve amenities in existing parks</b>	17.3%	42.4%	29.9%	10.4%
<b>Expand recreation programs and activities at the community center, library, etc.</b>	17.9%	39.3%	33.9%	8.9%

**Q8** Visitors to parks and trails in the two communities can bring dogs to certain facilities. Providing dog-friendly public recreation space serves the needs of dog owners, though other park and trail users may prefer space where dogs are well controlled or prohibited. Should the communities consider expanding, maintaining or reducing the facilities available to dogs? (1,191 responses, 471 individual responses)

	<b>Expand</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Reduce</b>
<b>Off-leash dog play areas and trails</b>	26.0%	60.2%	13.8%
<b>Park areas where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	30.9%	61.7%	7.4%
<b>Trails where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	31.9%	59.3%	8.7%
<b>Park areas where no dogs are permitted</b>	16.0%	59.2%	24.8%
<b>Trails where no dogs are permitted</b>	15.7%	56.3%	28.1%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (628 responses with 246 individual comment)**

	<b>Expand</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Reduce</b>
<b>Off-leash dog play areas and trails</b>	25.0%	60.1%	14.9%
<b>Park areas where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	31.5%	60.0%	8.5%
<b>Trails where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	33.3%	56.8%	10.0%
<b>Park areas where no dogs are permitted</b>	16.1%	60.1%	23.9%
<b>Trails where no dogs are permitted</b>	16.6%	56.8%	26.6%

**Fox Chapel Borough (486 responses with 190 individual comments)**

	<b>Expand</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Reduce</b>
<b>Off-leash dog play areas and trails</b>	25.9%	62.1%	12.0%
<b>Park areas where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	30.2%	64.0%	5.8%
<b>Trails where on-leash dogs are permitted</b>	30.8%	62.1%	7.1%
<b>Park areas where no dogs are permitted</b>	15.5%	59.1%	25.4%
<b>Trails where no dogs are permitted</b>	14.4%	55.8%	29.8%

The most popular themes expressed in the comments on this question were:

- In leash areas, enforce keeping dogs on leashes
- Provide more off-leash areas
- Promote dog waste management including more waster receptacles and enforcement of waste regulations

**Q9 If you could have a meeting with your Council member, what would you ask them to do for our community? (717 responses)**

The most commonly mentioned themes were:

- Increased traffic calming including decreasing congestion and speed enforcement
- Improved connectivity including more walkable and bikeable trails and roads
- Infrastructure improvements such as stormwater management
- Emphasis on sustainability, including green space preservation and climate planning
- Maintain current community parks and provide additional recreation facilities, such as a community pool and pickleball courts

*Responses by community:*

**O'Hara Township: 361**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 304**

**Q10 Tell us about something you've noticed in another community that you think our community should try. (562 responses)**

The most commonly mentioned themes were:

- More community events such as block parties, flea markets, fairs, and live music
- Additional recreation facilities including pickleball courts, a public pool or a splash pad
- Connectivity improvements such as more crosswalks, walking and biking trails and sidewalks

*Responses by community:*

**O'Hara Township: 288**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 234**

**Q11 Which best describes you? (1,205 responses)**

Age range	% of total responses
I live in O'Hara Township	53.9%
I live in Fox Chapel Borough	40.8%
I live and own a business in O'Hara Township or Fox Chapel Borough	3.1%
I live in a neighboring community and am interested in planning for the two communities	2.2%
I own a business in O'Hara Township or Fox Chapel Borough, but I do not live in the township or the borough	0%

**Q12 In what age range do you fall? (1,194 responses)**

	% of total responses
Younger than 18	0.7%
18 to 25	0.5%
26 to 34	5.2%
35 to 54	41.4%
55 to 64	20.6%
65 or older	28.8%
Prefer not to answer	2.8%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (650 responses)**

	% of Total Respondents (incl. <18)	% of Total Respondents (excluding <18)	Population as % of Total Population (incl. <18)	Population as % of Total Population (excluding <18)
Younger than 18	0.8%	--	20.9%	--
18 to 25	0.3%	0.3%	5.2%	6.5%
26 to 34	7.2%	7.5%	8.2%	10.4%
35 to 54	43.2%	45.0%	23.7%	30.0%
55 to 64	18.5%	19.2%	15.2%	19.3%
65 or older	26.9%	28.0%	26.8%	33.8%
Prefer not to answer	3.1%			

**Fox Chapel Borough (488 responses)**

	<b>% of Total Respondents (incl. &lt;18)</b>	<b>% of Total Respondents (excluding &lt;18)</b>	<b>Population as % of Total Population (incl. &lt;18)</b>	<b>Population as % of Total Population (excluding &lt;18)</b>
Younger than 18	0.4%	--	28.6%	--
18 to 25	0.8%	0.8%	5.3%	7.5%
26 to 34	3.1%	3.2%	4.8%	6.8%
35 to 54	37.3%	38.4%	30.8%	43.2%
55 to 64	23.2%	23.8%	13.4%	18.8%
65 or older	32.8%	33.8%	16.9%	23.7%
Prefer not to answer	2.5%			

**Q13 How long have you lived in, worked in or had a business in your community? (1,194 responses)**

	<b>Less than 5 Years</b>	<b>6-15 Years</b>	<b>More than 15 Years</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Lived Here</b>	15.2%	24.7%	59.3%	0.9%
<b>Worked Here</b>	9.2%	9.9%	16.9%	64.0%
<b>Owned a business here</b>	3.8%	4.1%	6.2%	85.9%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O'Hara Township (650 responses)**

	<b>Less than 5 Years</b>	<b>6-15 Years</b>	<b>More than 15 Years</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Lived Here</b>	17.2%	24.5%	58.0%	0.3%
<b>Worked Here</b>	11.2%	8.5%	16.5%	63.8%
<b>Owned a business here</b>	2.8%	2.6%	3.9%	90.2%

**Fox Chapel Borough (488 responses)**

	<b>Less than 5 Years</b>	<b>6-15 Years</b>	<b>More than 15 Years</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Lived Here</b>	12.7%	25.3%	61.4%	0.6%
<b>Worked Here</b>	5.4%	10.4%	14.6%	69.6%
<b>Owned a business here</b>	3.1%	3.3%	6.1%	87.5%

**Q14 What is one thing you would be willing to do to improve your community? (1,119 responses)**

	<b>Respondents as %</b>
Attend council or commission meetings	8.0%
Help to promote our community	3.4%
Help to implement some specific elements of the comprehensive plan, once it is completed	7.8%
Improve the appearance of my property	8.9%
Maintain a flower garden in a public space	4.6%
Plant a tree	9.5%
Run for elected office	1.5%
Serve on a committee or board	13.3%
Volunteer with the schools or a non-profit organization	11.1%
Work at a clean-up day	11.1%
Pay slightly increased taxes to fund new initiatives coming from the Comprehensive Plan	9.7%
Donate for specific initiatives	11.3%

*Response breakdown by community:*

**O’Hara Township (599 responses)**

	<b>Respondents as %</b>
Attend council or commission meetings	7.4%
Help to promote our community	3.7%
Help to implement some specific elements of the comprehensive plan, once it is completed	8.0%
Improve the appearance of my property	10.9%
Maintain a flower garden in a public space	4.9%
Plant a tree	7.4%
Run for elected office	1.5%
Serve on a committee or board	10.5%
Volunteer with the schools or a non-profit organization	12.7%
Work at a clean-up day	12.9%
Pay slightly increased taxes to fund new initiatives coming from the Comprehensive Plan	9.9%
Donate for specific initiatives	10.5%

**Fox Chapel Borough (463 responses)**

	<b>Respondents as %</b>
Attend council or commission meetings	9.1%
Help to promote our community	2.8%
Help to implement some specific elements of the comprehensive plan, once it is completed	7.6%
Improve the appearance of my property	6.5%
Maintain a flower garden in a public space	4.5%
Plant a tree	12.5%
Run for elected office	1.3%
Serve on a committee or board	16.2%
Volunteer with the schools or a non-profit organization	8.4%
Work at a clean-up day	9.1%
Pay slightly increased taxes to fund new initiatives coming from the Comprehensive Plan	9.5%
Donate for specific initiatives	12.5%

**Q15 If you would like to add comments that would help us better understand successes, issues or ways to better our community, please add them below. (290 responses)**

The most commonly mentioned themes were:

- Connectivity improvements including improved sidewalks, additional biking and walking trails, and connections to community parks
- Fiscal responsibility including maintained or reduced taxes
- Infrastructure improvements including road maintenance, stormwater management, and paid EMS and Fire

*Responses by community:*

**O’Hara Township: 151**

**Fox Chapel Borough: 119**

Finally, 566 of 1,335 respondents provided email addresses, including 314 from O’Hara and 228 from Fox Chapel. These addresses will be added to the project mailing list used to provide updates on the project periodically as the plan continues to develop.