

Survey on the Web
Oct. 16 – 22, 2012
Your Voice. Your Community. Our Future.

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in City Facilities and Parks?

Elementary School -

- New or updated facilities. Greater use of technology in classrooms. Tests scores that exceed state averages or at least come closer to the scores coming out of PWCS
- Increase capacity within the buildings for incoming student growth at all Elementary schools
- New Baldwin
- More space and equipment for teaching technology to students
- Baldwin students need a better learning environment. The money to maintain the old building would be a better investment in a new facility. More STEM investment.
- Baldwin needs to be addressed
- We have overcrowding problems across the board, but more importantly, we have buildings that are not healthy for our children. They have mold problems, air conditioning duct issues, inadequate space and technology capabilities and so much more.
- Overcrowding issues/lack of technology
- Baldwin Elementary School needs to be re-built along with Dean Elementary
- Baldwin Elementary very old, moldy building needs to be flattened out and re-build a new one from the ground. The same goes for Dean, Weems and Haydon.
- Meet AYP
- New Baldwin, two stories, and then the building of a 6th elementary school. We need to eliminate all these trailers at the schools. They are a safety/security risk and not a good learning environment for our children.
- Additional space to relieve crowding and reduce/eliminate need for multiple trailers.
- 1) Build new schools on current sites (Baldwin + Dean) with expanded capacity
- 2) Renovate schools and expand (Weems, Hydon) expand Round
- 3) Don't use trailers, waste of funds. Buy back or rent the old Marsteller School put 4th graders there.

Intermediate/Middle School

- More space and equipment for teaching technology to students
- Bring a more dynamic and demanding leader to Metz. More STEM investment. Study circles for parents, teachers and students. This is where parents feel most isolated right at the point when parenting changes and the students face peer group challenges, especially gang involvement. www.everyday-democracy.org Look at the

work they do in the education field. Talk to John Landesman with Montgomery County Public Schools. Engage the community to also participate in the circles.

- I don't see any immediate needs here
- The intermediate school is at capacity and growing. "Learning cottages" will soon be needed at this location as well.
- Overcrowding issues/lack of technology
- Mayfield is already full capacity, planning needs to be started to add more room.
- Athletic fields need to be built at Mayfield. There are no real areas for the PE teachers to take the students outside. They are restricted by the recess time as to when they can use their limited fields. The athletic fields at Metz are an embarrassment. If the city has no money to keep them up, it should be put back on the school and the AD. There are any number of parents that would have helped during the season, but there was no one to really bring our concerns to.
- Improved test scores
- Move 5th, maybe 6th grade, back to our expanded elementary schools to free up space at Mayfield and Metz. Move 9th grade back to Metz to eliminate overcrowding at Osbourn.
- Look at latest technology and how new technology can integrate with instruction to improve learning processes.
- Build a second Intermediate school and have the two intermediate schools host 4th thru 6th grade.

High School

- Complete the top floor of Johnson Learning Center for use by Central Office or students
- More classrooms to facilitate individualized instruction for slow learners
- Stronger bond with community colleges and local institutions like Stratford U. to engage students in career paths that get them out and working their own way through college. Continue study circles from middle school level, with students taking the lead. Engage the community to also participate in the circles.
- OHS needs to be completely re-looked at. Math classes are being held in art rooms, teachers don't all have dedicated rooms, classes are overcrowded, the fields/stadium
- The high school is also at capacity. The JLC building could be finished upstairs to accommodate things such as Freshman academy classes, online course work, or anything
- Osborne High School: There is definitely going to be a need with all of the growth that is occurring in our city there will be a need for a new High School.
- OHS is completely obsolete, it does not meet the technology trends and other sports and activity facilities. The campus is too small
- Full accreditation
- We need a vo-tech educational facility to prepare non-college-bound students for the skilled worker jobs of the future. We need to raise the tax rate to help pay for this.
- Look at latest technology and how new technology can integrate with instruction to improve learning processes

- 1) New track with equipment to share with middle school. Schools are losing funds to county schools when "Home" track events are hosted by schools outside the city.
- 2) Add/expand the second floor to accommodate growth.

School Admin & Support

- Combined location for all Central Office, Maintenance and Transportation staff, equipment and vehicles.
- Thank you for bringing in a dynamic leader in the new superintendent. I've worked with Al Radford, Sandy Thompson and Cecily Anthony and they all go above and beyond. Hire more guidance counselors - I think there are three for thousands of students. There needs to be more, especially in a school with so many challenging students.
- School administration needs a better environment - better facility, able to house all divisions of admin/support.
- They NEED a centralized location for all central office staff. It must be difficult to function efficiently when they are in multiple locations and some of those locations in dire need of repair that is costly.
- A new administrative building
- Please look into having a building to house all staff up to the 21 century standards.
- We need a newer, bigger central office building. The one we have is dilapidated and an embarrassment. This is a priority over expansion of city hall facilities.
- New or leased school central office space. Currently situation with multiple locations, lack of office space (personnel are crammed in small spaces with poor ventilation), and lack of meeting space is inefficient. One central location would increase functionality for administration of new programs and technology upgrades. Also need lot/space for school bus storage. Osbourn parking lot is not the solution.
- Build one large building in the current parking lot of the Admin building (3 floors). Remove the old buildings for parking and add parking for the Admin buildings in place of the grassy triangle area across the road from the current buildings.

Public Safety

- The addition of a modern facility for fire and police centrally located within the City boundaries.
- More police officers on the streets, and fire equipment that actually works when it's needed.
- Operation Lifesaver teaches railroad safety to school bus drivers. OL instructors also need to be teaching railroad safety to drivers ed classes in the high school. This is critical in an active rail community.
- Fire and Rescue needs to be addressed in several areas - career/volunteer, facilities, apparatus, and admin/support

- It is obvious that the fire department needs to have a more modern facility that meets the needs of all personnel, but more importantly makes it a priority to increase response times to citizens.
- With Quantico being so close, has the city looked at the firing range and facilities there for training? The FBI hosts a 13-week police training course there. Also, there are several firing or rifle range facilities in the area. Have these been considered or contacted for use of facilities for training purposes? With Prince William County being so large and surrounding us, have we tried to work with them for training? While I understand the needs for enlarging the police department to meet the needs of doubled staff, all those staff do not work the same shift. I believe you work on a 3-shift rotation. While it is not an ideal situation to share workspace, assigning 3 different personnel to an area would do until a solution could be found.
- A new Fire Truck
- More police officers present in the community, not just during traffic rush hour.
- Police existing trails and parks better, enforce laws on the garbage/trash with more signage.
- extra patrols in GTS
- We need a fire/rescue facility by the airport. No part of the city should be more than 4 minutes away from emergency services.
- 2nd fire station to serve area
- Some streets in communities would be safer with speed bumps, such as, Liberty Street

Transportation & Drainage

- Street gutters must be maintained to remove leaves and debris (ex: Driveway off Main St. to Osbourn High School completely filled with trash and leaves)
- Need a partnership with HOA's and drainage areas in the greens areas. Behind my house needs new drainage worked out.
- I live in Weems. I see only a handful of students walking to school. More students should be walking or riding bikes to school to save gas and increase physical activity, as they were when my children were young. The purchase of any new vehicles for schools or government should be electric or hybrid cars to save on fuel as well.
- Transportation needs to be reviewed. Traffic is a mess throughout town, and the commuters make Old Town a horror scene in the morning and afternoon.
- Do our storm sewers feed into the Centreville water treatment plant? If so, do we contribute to the maintenance of this facility? If not, where does our storm water go?
- School Street's drainage system needs to be addressed immediately!!
- More public transportation
- Take care of existing trails (many are coming apart and need patching/sealing) , don't put expensive trails where they don't belong and pose a safety threat - i.e. the Winters Branch Trail Extension.
- PW Street floods

- Widening of Prince William Street and better drainage to avoid flooding in that area. Complete the bike trail system including the Winter's Branch extension.
- I hope Manassas continues to participate in providing public bus service. Upgrading communities to be consistent across Manassas to include any drainage problems should be considered on balance with center city projects. The perception is that most often large community projects take a back seat to center city projects and upgrades.
- The city needs to stop allowing the building of more high occupancy buildings. In the last ten years the city has only allowed town homes and apartment complexes to be built with out or any real improvement to roads, drainage or other amenities in the city.

City Facilities & Parks

- Fitness center...or use of Aquatic center for discount as City Residents. Parks & Rec that actually does something. Greater communication of events, availability...finding anything on City Website is incredibly difficult.
- More softball fields will entice teams to play in Manassas City and increase income from league fees. Too many teams must go to PWC or Fairfax to play. We live here, we should be able to play here!
- Would like more public area that is clean.
- Improve the playing fields at Jennie Dean and Byrd Park - they are dangerous. Do more to promote use of and support Boys & Girls Club. Bring back a Parks & Rec
- I would like to see parks updated
- I would like to see a city park across the street from Old Towne Sports Pub and Ames Funeral Parlor. What a great location for a park that could encompass celebrations and city-wide events.
- There needs to be either a Parks & Recreation Department or funding for our kids to go to the Boys & Girls Club. They need to be somewhere where there is structure,
- We have parks, now, I don't have an idea about its management.
- We need more tree canopy in the city. Too often champion trees and even just large older trees are needlessly cut down.
- There is a need for more green areas. They need not be big--something as simple as an open area and a bench. Green areas bring out neighbors and cut down on nuisance crimes.
- Where is the bike route map? I have actually tried following the green signs. Not very helpful.
- Better advertising on existing parks - the City has plenty and many don't even know about them.
- None - continued upkeep
- Reestablish the office of Parks and Recreation. Ensure that parks and recreational facilities continue to meet the needs of the citizens including adequate green space.
- I know my neighborhood does not receive leaf pick up services. Also, it seems to me that that citizen service requests to the city take a very long time, for example to get permits.

- The parks have improved in appearance over the years. Do not know of any major amenities needed now.
- More/better soccer/football fields with lights. Only baseball fields have lights. we should add lights to soccer/football fields build more fields and make some Turf. The city could then host tournaments and other events that could, over time pay for the fields and the maintenance.

Utilities & Airport

- More options and better access to bills from the utilities. Online access would be optimal.
- Is awesome. I rarely lose power to my home or office. My tap water is clean. The FOG is cleaned from the sewers. The dam is stabilized. Bill paying should be online. Load management should be fully implemented. Keep the generation plant and try to sell back power to keep rates low.
- Transition to all underground lines
- I am thrilled with our utility department and the fact that we RARELY lose power during a storm. Keep up the great job!
- More commercial flights.
- Our airport is awesome. Stafford is getting a new terminal building, but they still can't compete with Manassas. Keep marketing and doing the economic development to get Gateway or Manassas Landing or whatever it is called built. Build a parking deck for VRE riders out there.
- I need to know more about our airport. I cannot comment.
- Please set up electronic bill payments so that we don't have to send our payment in hard copy or pay in person. Right now the only way to pay electronically is through a third party that costs money. Everyone pays their bills online now!
- Continue placement of utilities underground thru out the city.
- Hopefully, our utilities will continue to be upgraded while keeping reasonable utility costs to citizens.
- Would like to know more about the city's involvement, plans for the airport and how that will impact citizens in the future.

2. Are there any existing City Facilities and Parks programs or services you feel you could live without?

- Anything not related to public safety or the barebones needed to keep the city running.
- I just think some redundant efforts could be combined - OTBA and HMI and Harris Pavilion and City in the Old Town area. The City is more than just Old Town. Balance
- Excessive testing that is within the city's control-it's time consuming, expensive to create and print, it takes away from the time that the teachers have to teach the children, it causes a lot of stress and anxiety for the children to be tested constantly and it puts a lot of

stress on the teachers to not only teach, but to get to test after test. Could this money be better spent somewhere else?

- Street sweeping, since they do such a poor job now, why bother continuing?
3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?
- A miracle. Because of the schools, intermediate on up, we'll be gone before any of our children leave elementary school. Schools that meet and then exceed expectations. Housing values that reflect sq. ft. price in county unsteady of being penalized for surrounding areas with high default rates. Return of small town values amongst it's citizens and a general cleanup of the outskirts and surrounding areas....mostly outside the city.
 - Affordable housing and fewer HOAs. Manassas is already great, but I can't afford to live in the size of house that I need to at this point.
 - Street art like the pigs in Lexington NC or the Hokey birds in Blacksburg, the apples in Winchester - trains that kids could sit on, then sell for charity. Sell candy at the
 - cool recreation center for senior citizens
 - Improvements to schools, public safety, and overall plan for the City
 - The City of Manassas needs to take a serious look at all the housing developments that have been built or are in the process of being built and STOP. We are losing valuable space for facilities such as schools, fire & rescue, or police needs. It seems every spare inch of the city has been allowed to be developed, and I believe at the expense of the people living here. While a park, school, fire station, or police department don't generate revenue, having those facilities up to 21st century standards is FAR more important than building one more place for people to live. I feel the people managing the city have a "build it and they will come" attitude. This is not what is needed. I moved here 12 years ago and chose to live in the city because it was quaint and seemed friendly. This is diminishing greatly by all the building of these developments. It would have been so much better to see a park in the center of town that has much more multiple use than another housing development. There seems to be people of influence that want this to happen and instead of making it possible to keep a quaint safe place to live, we're adding more housing.
 - I suppose that my main concern now (the school system) will not be a direct concern of mine in 20 years as our youngest will be 22 and no longer in the school system. However, without a strong school system, no one will want to live in Manassas. A lot of people don't want to live here now and have left. When there are better opportunities for education elsewhere, why would you choose to stay here? The fact is that education is always going to be a draw for people or a reason to stay away. If we have great schools, we are creating a great future for our city. Those children, properly educated, will grow up and attend colleges or trade schools or find jobs. They'll want to live here and raise

their own children here. They'll work here, shop here and eat at restaurants here and that brings revenue to the city. If we don't meet a basic need like quality education, nothing else is going to matter.

- A more diverse City Council which looks out for the needs of all of its citizens.
- Education! To bring the system to standards that are not always at risk of losing accreditation. Less politics involved; difficult? yes; impossible? no. When we have a good school system, it's a win-win situation for everyone. Please treat all students equally and scores will rise across the board. Segregation does not work. It is oppressive.
- I was a little surprised that there were no questions or discussions about how to address the pending over crowding problem. It was just thrown out there that we will eventually have 46 trailers, but solutions never discussed. Will this be part of the future discussions?
- Spend money on sidewalks throughout the city.
- Continue with the recycling and street cleaning.
- Spend money on green spaces and bike trails.
- Continue to improve the schools.
- Restore old homes in and around the town center.
- Continue offering programs in town.
- Careful consideration of the building and existing infrastructure. We do not need more ugly townhouses/condos/high rises in strange places. Consider the future impact on generations to come. There are many oddities in the City that likely got there because developers incurred other improvements to the area around their development. Ultimately the Citizens and City lose here.
- Better schools, stop building high density residential dwellings (senior homes would be an exception)
- A vibrant downtown, more pedestrian friendly, continuing fine arts performances, and a school system that is the envy of all Northern Virginia.
- Main Street Cityscape project and sidewalk initiative
- A positive impression of the city in the news. Currently there is too much negativity from city officials. School system up to date with latest technology and educational opportunities, low crime, and improvement in housing issues.
- A city administration that is very approachable by its citizens from the top down, in every department. A no "silo" approach between all departments and citizens. More citizen involvement in planning for the city at all age levels and gender.
- More parks and open space. Less congestion. A good school system supported by the City council for a change, reduced crime. Not letting the City council pave over Manassas with 5 story buildings and other ugly structures.