



Community Council



POMEGRANATE CENTER

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.*

-African proverb

The purpose of Community Conversations is to identify priorities that can help improve the quality of life in our region, which includes Columbia and Walla Walla counties and northeastern Umatilla County. Community Council is leading this project in collaboration with United Way of Walla Walla County, Sherwood Trust, Blue Mountain Community Foundation, and Pomegranate Center.

This report is a compilation of the results from many different community workshops and gatherings, and some existing visions and initiatives.

Our goal was to engage as many residents of our region as possible. In an attempt to be as inclusive as possible, the workshops were held across the region, mostly in the evening, with one held during the day. Refreshments, childcare, and simultaneous Spanish translation were offered at all of the workshops. In addition to the large workshops, United Way of Walla Walla County conducted many smaller roundtable discussions at business offices, service club meetings, and youth centers. In all, over 800 participants offered their ideas for the future.

## **A. Community Conversations Workshops:**

Five workshops were held in the evening: in Walla Walla on May 23, Milton-Freewater on May 24, Dayton on May 25, Carrie Street Community Center (in Walla Walla) on June 21, and Waitsburg on August 18. On August 24, the only daytime workshop was held in Walla Walla to accommodate those who could not attend any of the evening meetings. Simultaneous Spanish translation was offered at four of the five events and utilized at two of the four events – the evening meetings in Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater. The fifth workshop was held in Spanish and translated in English. At all of the workshops where Spanish was used, the ideas offered were written in English and Spanish. Child care was offered at all of the events and utilized at three of the workshops.

These workshops followed a similar agenda. Roger Esparza, Community Council Board President, welcomed community members at each of the Community Conversations and then turned the meetings over to a facilitator, either Milenko Matanovic from Pomegranate Center, Lawson Knight from Intermountain Impact Investments, or Maria Remington. The facilitator briefly explained the goals, purposes, and timeline of the project. They stated that the meetings were to discover and learn together, not to promote agendas. The facilitator proposed these ground rules:

- Everyone participates
- Speak and listen
- Respect differences
- Make it work for all and for future generations

The facilitator asked each attendee to come up with an answer to this question: **What ideas do you have for this region's future?** Then they asked participants to share their top idea. Everyone had a chance to speak, presenting their best idea in a few key words. Pomegranate Center uses this sharing strategy because they believe that it is as important to express ideas as to hear them from others. When it comes to community, together we know more and through witnessing everyone else's proposals, we begin to see larger patterns and themes. At the end of the meetings, the facilitator asked attendees to identify common themes as the first step in linking their ideas with those of others.

## **B. United Way**

An additional series of workshops were conducted by the United Way at a number of business offices, service clubs, and youth centers in Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater. All told, these conversations included people from 7 to 95 years old. The workshops were organized into small-group discussions in order to develop an intimate setting for sharing, and to allow participants to answer questions in depth. In addition to asking participants to share their community treasures, facilitators

also asked, “**What kind of a community do you want to live in?**” Facilitators made notes of participants’ responses.

### **C. Current Visioning Documents**

In order to recognize additional recent visioning activities that took place outside of these workshops and roundtable discussions, we have included ideas from visions and initiatives that were submitted to us. These include:

- *Blue Mountain Action Council Community Needs Assessment 2015*
- *Columbia County Coalition for Youth and Families Strategic Plan 2016*
- *Columbia Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies List 2016*
- *Partnership for Greater Burbank Community Visioning Summary 2016*
- *Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office Strategic Development Plan 2016*

### **GENERAL TOPIC AREAS**

Ideas from all of the workshops, roundtable discussions, and visioning documents, have been grouped into thirteen general topic areas, which are described below. Following the list of general topic areas is the list of specific ideas under the general topic area heading.

#### **1. ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

*The region will be renowned for excellence in education that embraces the entire population from birth through retirement.*

#### **2. ARTS AND CULTURE**

*The region will become a thriving arts community for all ages, and arts education will flourish.*

#### **3. CARE FOR NATURE**

*The region’s abundant natural treasures and environmental resources will be sustainably managed, protected and celebrated.*

#### **4. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

*The region’s government will reflect its diverse community and planning efforts will be socially inclusive. This will be a community with a culture of civic engagement that provides multiple opportunities for civic involvement, particularly among youth.*

#### **5. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

*The region will celebrate its rich social and cultural diversity by being inclusive and respectful of, and caring for, people from all backgrounds.*

**6. HEALTH**

*People of all ages will be able to access a full range of health services. Healthy lifestyles will be supported by access to healthy food, regional trail networks and recreational facilities.*

**7. LOCAL AGRICULTURE**

*The region will preserve farmlands and will support a robust local food system that will contribute to the population's health and the region's vitality.*

**8. RECREATION**

*Bike/walking paths will provide greater access to the region's natural and cultural amenities, and will increase regional connectivity. Sport complexes and recreational facilities, especially for youth, will be expanded.*

**9. REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

*The region will foster collaboration among governments, businesses and non-profits at the neighborhood, local, regional and state levels. Infrastructure will enhance connectivity within the region and to destinations outside the region.*

**10. SAFETY**

*Community members and law enforcement will work together to cultivate safe environments for everyone, particularly in public spaces, on roadways, and in the region's schools.*

**11. STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY**

*The region will have a strong economy that supports a large base of family-wage jobs in multiple sectors. The region will foster business creation and innovation, and will provide more employment opportunities for teens and youth. New opportunities to connect food production to tourism will build on the existing rich agricultural base.*

**12. VIBRANT CENTERS**

*Cities and towns will be places where people can live, work and play. Housing will be affordable and a vibrant mix of commercial establishments will serve a diverse population. Building on existing historical fabric, cities and towns will become more environmentally sustainable, with greater emphasis on walkability, public transit, green energy, and public spaces.*

**13. WELLBEING FOR ALL**

*The region will provide services and opportunities for all, creating a place that is attractive to young families and retirees alike. A broad array of recreational and cultural activities along with affordable childcare, year-round opportunities for youth, and a support system for seniors and the disabled will serve the whole population and create a high quality of life for everyone.*

## LIST OF ALL IDEAS

All of the ideas gathered at the workshops are listed below. Ideas presented in the visioning documents are marked with the following identifier:

- (BMAC) *BMAC Community Needs Assessment 2015*
- (CCYF) *Columbia County Coalition for Youth and Families Strategic Plan 2016*
- (CCED) *Columbia Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies List 2016*
- (Burbank) *Partnership for Greater Burbank Community Visioning Summary 2016*
- (WWSO) *Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office Strategic Development Plan 2016*

### 1. ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Improved quality of education (6X)  
Health education  
Vocational high-school training  
Early childhood education – birth to 5 years  
Upgrade existing facilities  
Build a new high school  
Affordable, quality childcare  
Well-funded preschool  
Career planning and development for all  
Local opportunities for high-school and college graduates  
Bookmobiles  
Universal pre-school (3X)  
Parenting classes  
100% high school graduation rate  
More support for local schools  
Pre-K education  
Education for all ages  
Summer school for kids falling behind  
Childcare for all  
Improved educational resources  
More support for school districts (2X)  
Increase birth-5 years childcare education  
Parent education for low-income families  
Local affordable adult education  
Early education and preschool for all  
Classes for parents  
More respect by the teachers for their students  
Transportation for after-school activities  
More support for parents and school district should explain parental rights.  
Additional strategies for teachers to work with students with behavioral challenges

Youth employment/educationally linked  
Residential workshop learning centers (2x)  
"Utility Edu Alliance in Portland" Develop an edu industry alliance  
Adequate school facilities  
Continue to improve K-12 education with an eye on higher ed  
Life-long learning cradle and up  
Increase K-12 options  
Massive expansion of high quality summer programs for youth  
Make sure K-12 is increasing  
WWPS that delivers a world class education  
We need a program that prepares our kids for college and trades/skills  
Make our schools #1  
Access for youth to attend college  
Work on our education facilities esp. Walla Walla high school  
Provide more than adequate education  
After school opportunities are accessible to everybody regardless of income  
WWPS that delivers excellent education  
Alternative middle schools with pathways towards higher ed  
Our community needs to be involved in the school education system  
Exclusionary learning model needs to be applied by our schools  
Strong advocacy for our teachers  
Increase sex education in school  
Share knowledge in educational system  
Universal access to childhood opportunity  
Focused on education and less focused on class (social status)  
There was Better Money for schools  
There were more teachers like Mrs C.  
There were more schools, smaller classrooms  
There were more diverse classroom experiences – travel more, learn more  
real life stuff, hands on experiences, work outside the classroom more, visit  
learning places  
There were more field trips during the school year  
better schools  
Financial training  
One need in the WW community is that adults who cannot read either  
because of being second language learners or disabilities.  
Some have trouble reading  
Male are more likely to be educated and girl home taking care of the  
younger siblings. (not all case is this true)  
College Place schools are so much better; Tri-Cities & other schools look  
much nicer  
Science & technology are lacking

How do you reach the kids that don't know how to advocate for themselves  
 parental education & support  
 Get the kids who are slipping through the cracks  
 Educate beyond high school; access to it, funding  
 Parental support of youth  
 Schools  
 More accountability for Kids  
 Better school system  
 Children; better appropriate activities, more accountability  
 More opportunity for vocational training  
 Teach parenting skills 1st  
 Increase coordination with downtown businesses and the school. (CCED)  
 Continue to improve stability of local school district (CCED)  
 Improve relationships with high schools and colleges. (CCED)  
 WWCC (and/or WSU) to open branch or satellite office. (CCED)  
 Continue to expand programs at Dayton High School/Skill Center with  
 WWCC. (CCED)  
 Encourage active participation in regional workforce training. (CCED)  
 Research community workforce need, then develop programs to meet  
 established needs. (CCED)  
 Provide incumbent worker training (CCED)  
 Development of STEM programs (CCED)  
 Seek funding under the Safe Routes to Schools program (CCED)  
 Facilitate youth internship/entrepreneurial program in school (CCED)  
 Revitalize the Internship Program (CCYF)  
 Implement a College and Career Day (CCYF)  
 Support an Alternative Learning Environment (CCYF)  
 Continue Support for Students Helping Each Other (CCYF)  
 Provide a Teacher Appreciation Event (CCYF)  
 Create a Staff Focus Campaign (CCYF)  
 Integrate ACEs & Resiliency Training (CCYF)  
 Communicate and promote school activities to the community (CCYF)  
 Support the After School Program (CCYF)

## 2. **ARTS AND CULTURE**

Art for children  
 Support of the arts  
 Support of arts for kids  
 Artists Co-op (2X)  
 Community art mural projects  
 Community arts center  
 Art education for all  
 Amphitheater for large events (2X)

Incubator for demonstrative arts  
A community project, like a community art project  
Tremendous support for arts and arts in the schools  
Oral history/Preserving and sharing history  
Alternative mid/high opportunities for art development  
Support regional fine arts destinations through culture, access, education and awareness  
Increase art education in schools  
Development of a consumer wine education center and museum  
There was a music studio where you can mix your own music and create community around music  
There was a Sci Fi Festivals  
There was more engaging events for people interested in Sci Fi  
Lots of culture & events

### **3. CARE FOR NATURE**

Environmental awareness  
Ensure water supply  
Healthy soil and water for growing food  
Beautification and enhancement of Mill Creek in downtown (2X)  
Opportunities to connect kids with nature  
Recycle glass  
Restore parking along Mill Creek  
Opportunities to connect kids with nature  
Protect, preserve and manage the Walla Walla River  
Sustainable water supply  
Healthy creeks (see river drainage)  
Careful protection/mgt of Walla Walla river drainage (2x)  
Continue to save our natural resources  
Water careful management and conservation  
Recycle  
Less waste more compost  
Noise and air pollution reduction  
Demonstrate sustainable living  
There was an Electric car plug in so that people will drive more electric cars and be able to plug in which would encourage them to be more environmentally friendly  
There was Vegetable oil cars for sale so we could buy them  
Our natural resources – outdoor recreation (Burbank)  
Install car charging station (CCED)  
Obtain funding for maintenance on dike (CCED)

#### **4. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Expand diversity in government and planning  
Training for public offices and boards  
Youth activities  
People involved with balancing priorities  
Opportunities for more engagement on neighborhood levels  
Identify, encourage and train community leaders  
Region known for giving  
Youth engagement  
Enhance culture of volunteerism  
Community advocates among communities  
Information hub for those in need  
Plans to create the next generation of leaders  
More publicity for the programs available to the community  
Better communication about the services offered by organizations.  
Continue exchange of citizen/govt. communication  
Involving adults in learning/internships  
Use community resources to make our children better  
Keep our one-on-one communication with one another- no devices  
June 2018 allot growth management changes  
Planning processes that are all inclusive for those living here  
Extensive volunteer handbook for retirees and general public  
Increase mentors for future  
Strategic plan of the growth of our community/region inclusive of all people who live here  
A roadmap for raising resources for social enterprise  
Community and economic development for community voices- what we "do" directory and navigation  
Have a strong community identity that retains it citizens  
More community engagement  
Celebration of our place  
Help kids volunteer and help their community  
A culture of solution orientation  
Increase of community support for non-profits and knowledge/education to our community about services available  
Enhanced long range planning for our region  
Civic pride among youth  
More participation with our heritage education program  
Willing to help each other out and less likely to manipulate or take advantage  
There were more Reasonable court systems, don't just "go with" the department recommendations.  
There were Good people like Andrew, JJC Chaplain

All part of the team in the community;  
Role model for kids  
More community of engagement- society is changing- hard to make any meaningful changes  
Establish a relationship among the group where you want to effect change;  
build trust through one-on-one relationships  
Somehow increase engagement among key community members who have resources and abilities to contribute  
Need more forward thinking  
Is our effectiveness of delivering services in danger because of our legal binding?  
Tiering of socioeconomic of entire community  
Amount of regulatory requirements  
Sense that someone else clean up community  
Collaboration – duplication of effort fractures self-competitive effort- all need funding  
Resistant to change  
City Red tape resistance to progress suppresses growth  
Better attitude toward federal employees  
Commercial development – need for community voice (Burbank)  
Install a digital community information board, perhaps in Flour Mill Park (CCED)  
Encourage the community to adopt a leadership development program (CCED)

## **5. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

Understanding diversity through education and collaboration  
Language learning centers  
Civic culture of diversity  
Involve Hispanics in all decisions  
Embrace multi-culturalism  
Multi-cultural meshing  
Involve Native Tribes in regional community  
Rich and diverse culture (2X)  
Integration of empathy and compassion in planning  
Community cooperation- respect for diverse opinions and culture  
Proactive land use planning- not reactive  
Increase access/participation for minorities in higher ed  
Broad inclusion of marginalized populations  
Increased leadership for and from diverse groups  
Equal standings in all our communities  
Be a region that celebrates and respects diversity  
Establish a language center so we can become a bilingual community

More diverse or open to diversity  
Connect with others, especially those from other demographics  
We have marginalized communities around poverty and ethnicity. We are not integrated communities presently. Educational opportunities are now equal for all. People are afraid – change adverse – of losing what they think is good. Wine gets a lot of attention; helps some but not all. There is a disconnect between how things were and how things are. There is insecurity in some communities. Some people feel unwelcome in our communities.  
More racial/cultural integration: more community building, more civil and safe in neighborhoods  
Community that values all people/strong relationships, strong arts, culture  
More cultural diversity  
More cultural diversity  
Build relationships across socio-economic levels (CCYF)  
Explore establishing a Friends Program in Dayton (CCYF)

## 6. **HEALTH**

Making healthy choices easy to do  
Local, scratch cooking in all schools  
Local healthy foods in all public institutions: schools, colleges, prison, etc.  
Affordable health-care  
Enhanced psychiatric services  
Respect for all ages – from toddlers to elders  
Behavioral health treatment  
Mental health awareness and resources (2X)  
Community wellness center  
In-home health care for the elderly  
Year-round exercise facility for all ages  
Positive health opportunities for teenagers  
Assistance for people in need  
Caring community  
Quality healthcare for all  
Drug and alcohol rehab  
Full spectrum senior health care  
Preserve and foster healthcare facilities (4X)  
Youth community center  
Information hub for those in needs  
Adult day-care  
Healthier food in the schools  
Better mental health services  
Promote awareness of a healthy lifestyle should start in schools  
There was no more hunger

We need more available outpatient treatment facilities  
There was better food at the movie theatre  
preventative  
Mental health  
Physical health  
Grade school children 30% to 40% go hungry  
Health troubles (like nutrition)  
More and better mental health  
Good health care  
Lack of mental health support & services; impact all  
We need a treatment facility that is in-patient specific for WW residents so  
that people can get help close to family  
Nutrition education/healthy eating (BMAC)  
Mental health services(BMAC)  
Dental services(BMAC)  
Drug and alcohol abuse services(BMAC)  
Food(BMAC)  
Clothing(BMAC)  
Rehab community housing (possibly with CDBG funds)  
(CCED)  
Promote Healthy Choices (CCYF)  
Support the work of Columbia Cares (CCYF)  
Provide trainings, speakers and other community outreach  
(CCYF)  
Engage attendees of activities such as Turkey bingo, Ham  
Bingo, Etc. (CCYF)

## **7. LOCAL AGRICULTURE**

Stronger local food system  
The region becomes a hub for new generation of farmers  
Maintain and preserve local foods  
Commercial kitchen for preparing local foods  
Local healthy foods in all public institutions: schools, colleges, prison, etc.  
Preserve farmland  
Food hubs for local farmers  
Vibrant, diversified local agriculture (2X)  
Support and development of our local food system  
Sustainable agriculture (no chemicals)  
Develop awareness for the impact that irrigation loss would have on water  
resources  
Protect ag land from development

I wish that Different Foods growing around town in open spaces so that people can eat more healthy food  
I wish that we Grow more of our own food so that we don't have to buy so much from out of town, you know grow food ourselves  
There were Gardens everywhere with food that is free  
Develop value added agriculture (CCED)

## **8. RECREATION**

Indoor shooting range  
Bike lanes (3X)  
Trail development in the mountains  
Paved multi-use regional trails  
Rails to trails  
Regional trails network  
Develop rails to/and trails  
Connect bike/walking trails throughout the region (4X)  
Make Bluewood a year-round destination  
More outdoor recreational opportunities  
Athletic complex  
Beautify access to Touchet River  
Regional rest stops  
Bowling alley  
Swimming pool  
Recreation and information programs for teenagers to keep them busy  
Recreational activities in the mountains/outdoor recreation (2x)  
Recreational fishing opportunities  
Walking path /trail in Waitsburg- target older adults  
Free organized recreational activities for all ages  
Special events for things like archery/quilting competition  
Build on what we have- Mill Creek trail, kayak- look at confederated tribes plan  
Partner with community for increase in recreation  
There was a sports complex that is open to the public and a center point of the town  
There was a Swimming pool  
There was a Laser Tag  
There was a Mini Golf  
There were Dances  
There was a Video gamers place  
There was an Arcade  
There was a Video Game Store  
There was The Ocean (lol)  
There was a Water park

There were more Bowling alleys  
 There was a zoo  
 There was a "Sky Walk" trampoline store, big trampoline room  
 There was a Build-a-bear workshop  
 Recreational parks  
 More bike paths & loops  
 Outdoor family and tourist activities – bike paths, jogging paths, pool  
 (Burbank)  
 Install Touchet Valley Golf Course sprinkler system (CCED)  
 Long and short range plans for Fairgrounds, Golf Course, and Seneca  
 property the county is acquiring (CCED)  
 Create and improve walking & biking paths throughout the community,  
 connecting Downtown, BMS, Fairgrounds, School, etc., and potentially  
 between Dayton and Waitsburg. Bike Bridge over Touchet River (CCED)  
 Develop additional opportunities for ag tourism and seasonal recreation  
 (hunting/fishing, biking, camping, horseback riding, outfitting, skiing,  
 snowmobiling, zip lines, etc.) (CCED)  
 Encourage the establishment of cabin rentals (CCED)  
 Develop Community Center (CCED)  
 Expand recreational opportunities at Bluewood, including purchase of  
 snow machine (CCED)  
 Encourage development of Sports Complex for events and tournaments  
 (CCED)

## **9. REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

Collaboration between government sectors  
 Connected neighborhoods  
 Better communication amongst communities in the region  
 Make inter-state relations easier  
 Bring businesses and non-profits together for mutual support  
 Cooperation - amongst businesses, governments, non-profits  
 Protect local identities  
 Preserve regional historic structures (2X)  
 Information hub for regional activities  
 A non-profit network  
 Stronger regional identity  
 State support for regional projects and planning  
 Comprehensive regulation  
 Centralized regional historical hub  
 Be open to outside thinking- extra regional resources  
 Infrastructure investment  
 Better access to Walla Walla via roads and flights  
 Highway connectivity

Airport is on the right track with free parking! The freebies are very important!  
Finish highway 12  
Better infrastructure: solves transportation problems, provides better access to jobs, provides jobs, improves economy and community wealth.  
Connectivity/relationships  
Infrastructure (Roads, river, rail, air, water, sewer, energy, telecom, solid waste, transportation, utilities, etc.) (CCED)  
Improve City street and County road infrastructure, including Hwy. 261 improvements. City & County (CCED)  
Seek funding to maintain short line railroad (CCED)  
Improve railroad tracks to include passenger service (CCED)  
Partner with Columbia County Transportation for additional van pools to Starbuck and the Dam (CCED)

## **10. SAFETY**

Safe and friendly community  
School resource officers at all levels  
Trauma informed/smart community (2X)  
Community without gangs (2X)  
Sustainable funding for police  
Safety for all kids  
More security in schools  
More law enforcement  
Prevent opportunities for gang membership  
Eliminate neighborhood and community blight  
Enhanced public safety  
Drug-free community  
Greater general safety in the early morning hours for pedestrians  
Greater safety in the schools (bully, gangs, drugs, etc)  
More surveillance on the streets, parks, alleys, dark areas, more street lights  
Surveillance and patrol on the streets, including better policing (take us seriously)  
People who speak Spanish at the 911 center and make it easier to communicate with them and the police  
Gang prevention, bully education  
Safe area free of homelessness  
Increase awareness and education about gangs- can't just be a police problem- must be a community effort  
Community that is safe for pedestrians and cyclists (include driver and elementary education)  
Safe place for youth like a teen center

Safe  
No gangs  
No drugs (None, not even weed)  
Deal with the bullying  
Stable; safer  
Laws have really changed  
Drugs increasing causing lots of crime & stealing; prosecutions not enough  
& they're (criminals) are back on the streets  
Gangs/crime  
Gangs are a problem  
Increase in crime  
Stealing cars, drive by shootings  
Gangs Walla Walla and Milton Freewater  
Opening a pot store is countering what we want to see  
Safe-personal safety- less vandalism, crime theft  
Preventive Services for youth (age entering gangs- young)  
Tourism market-ties in with safety  
Reduce gang activity. Security/safety –gangs, etc.  
Highways, roads, traffic – need for safety infrastructure (Burbank)  
Improve safety, access, and ADA accessibility for pedestrians on Hwy. 12  
viaduct on E. Main Street (CCED)  
Jail/Law & Justice facility (CCED)  
Employ civilian civil process officers (WWSO)  
Detectives will be able to specifically focus on the prevention, intervention,  
and suppression/ investigation/ enforcement of criminal gang and drug  
related crime (WWSO)  
Create an SES Gang & Drug Unit now in an attempt to proactively minimize  
the number of our neighbors, friends, and family from becoming victims  
and statistics (WWSO)  
Specially trained deputies who will proactively focus on our community's  
traffic safety issues and save lives (WWSO)  
More school resource officers (WWSO)  
More patrol officers (WWSO)

## **11. STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY**

Incubator for young entrepreneurs  
Center to foster entrepreneurs  
More jobs and opportunities for the young  
Living-wage jobs (5X)  
Raise household income to state median  
Closing socio-economic gap (2X)  
Socially responsible tourism  
Sustainable local economy / Strong economy

Employment for people with disabilities (2X)  
Local opportunities for high-school and college graduates  
Agricultural tourism (2X)  
Preserve agricultural base  
Living wages and jobs (3X)  
Retain our young and our families  
Improved economy  
Eliminate poverty (2X)  
A micro-loan program to provide citizenship fees  
Cooperation amongst businesses  
Region known for business creation  
Economic diversity (3X)  
Value-added agriculture  
Living-wage jobs (2X)  
Keep small businesses viable  
Professional and technical jobs  
Survivability and sustainability  
Sustainable community businesses  
Buy local – support local products  
Support for local diverse farmers  
Resource sustaining/non-depleting jobs  
Embrace regional support for small businesses  
Economic development in scale/style (balance) of community (adaptive)  
A larger base of primary employers  
Community economic development opportunities  
Continued effort towards economic development  
Sustainable economic development  
Job opportunities and businesses that will employ those who return to our community after college  
Increase on sustainable jobs for youth employment  
Leverage our unique assets and tax climate to attract businesses  
More business/job opportunities so that we retain our new grads/professionals  
Living wage employment  
Missing food processing jobs-more opportunity  
Jobs for youth  
Factories  
Lower cost; reasonable cost; clothing stores  
More jobs for children  
Recruit industry  
Find ways for kids to earn money so they can contribute to economy  
We don't have enough living wage jobs  
Need to create more job opportunities; for young people to stay  
More drivers economic development, different industries

Faster growth we are one of the slowest growing communities in the state  
 Lack of jobs  
 Lack of jobs out of HS, college here-have resource of colleges here, support of entrepreneurship  
 Lose younger & lure of big city  
 Not a lot of family wage jobs  
 Lack of occupational depth and better paying jobs  
 Opportunity for employment  
 More jobs for kids  
 Change min. wage so kids continue to get jobs  
 Be a size (larger tax base) to get goods & services so that we don't out shop  
 More jobs/industry  
 Employment opportunities, Job search assistance (BMAC)  
 Employment opportunities (BMAC)  
 Development with Burbank in mind – aesthetically pleasing, managed growth (Burbank)  
 Continue to improve stability of local hospital district, including workforce training (CCED)  
 Facilitate small business technical assistance and workshops (CCED)  
 Create targeted marketing strategy for downtown business recruitment (CCED)  
 Continue to encourage development of wind generation project (CCED)  
 Encourage biomass energy production. (130 jobs) Port & County with Columbia Pulp (CCED)  
 Building capacity of local contractors to get on small works rosters, Sustainable Living Center list, etc. Chamber (CCED)  
 List resources and contractors on its website (CCED)  
 New Industry at Lyons Ferry to take advantage of new infrastructure (CCED)  
 Implement Choose Columbia County shop local/recruitment campaign (CCED)  
 Improve tourism web sites (CCED)  
 Develop a Youth Entrepreneur Program (CCYF)

## **12. VIBRANT CENTERS**

Natural spaces in and near communities  
 More parks for children  
 Green energy supply  
 Repurpose the Carnegie Library as a community center  
 Free WI-FI  
 Alternative transportation  
 Improved planning and zoning  
 Parking garages to promote walking

Strong neighborhood centers  
Local shopping  
Thriving downtowns  
Traffic calming through downtown areas  
Communities where people can live, work and play  
Adequate housing for all  
Energy conservation  
Environmental quality  
More electric vehicles and charging stations  
Redevelopment of HW 11 between WW and M-F  
Make towns irresistible (so people will move in)  
Faster communication networks and outreach  
Preservation of regional history – preserve the past while look forward  
Best place to retire and stay independent  
Electrical vehicles and charging stations  
Improve streets and roads  
Competitive technology access  
Fiber optics  
Faster communication networks and outreach  
Vital downtowns (2X)  
Decent and affordable housing for low and fixed income  
Enhance public transportation  
Simple, user-friendly codes and regulations  
More laundromats  
Make towns irresistible (so people will move in)  
Build laundromats in smaller communities- inclusive of multiple services  
eg. tutoring  
Housing developments to enhance and contribute to the local environment  
Adequate affordable housing  
Develop urban forestry  
Enhancing downtown Walla Walla  
Build environment for pedestrians  
More affordable housing  
Preserve and utilize our historic buildings  
Pedestrian/ cycle friendly  
Multi-family housing downtown  
Mill Creek flood control redevelop plan. Constrain development to regions  
we currently have  
Highway 11 redevelopment between Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater  
There was a Costco  
There was a real mall with places like foot locker, Burlington, sports shops,  
board shops, etc. – a triple decker mall would be cool

There was more food options - Coldstone, Sonic, In and Out Burger, Olive Garden, Golden Corral, Wendy's with no drug dealers, Chucky Cheese, Lorenzo's - bring it back, Carls Jr

There was a cheaper movie theatre

There were more museums and historical places

I wish there was Nice housing opportunities so that people don't have to spend all their money on a dumpy place

I wish there were No long waits for housing vouchers or help getting back up after you fall down, like 6 months or less

There were Affordable housing options for all ages

There was a Target

There were more Pet Stores

There was a Comic stores

Affordable housing

Store fronts full

More affordable shopping; shops target tourist

Bringing back Marcus Whitman

Buildings are getting better; investors have changed and made better

Increase size of Walla Walla Valley population

Increase band-width for internet connectivity

Affordable workforce housing

We need more housing affordability

Housing prices too high because of VRBO and other investors

Small community w/ good streets

Reduced cost of living

Affordable housing (BMAC)

Permanent supportive housing (BMAC)

Permanent housing (BMAC)

Asset: Our small town - rural, quiet, unincorporated (Burbank)

Need: Center for recreation and locally owned business - restaurant/deli, Farmers' market (Burbank)

Implement the Commercial Street Corridor plan - Caboose Park Phase (CCED)

Improve the water and sewer system infrastructure of the City of Dayton (CCED)

Make Transfer Station improvements and upgrades (CCED)

Install playground and cabins at Lyons Ferry Marina (CCED)

Construct new speculative building at Rock Hill Industrial park (CCED)

Achieve funding for regional Way Finding program (CCED)

Encourage and improve West entrance to Dayton (CCED)

Maintain and enhance existing railroad depot. DHDS

Install east end Welcome to Dayton sign (CCED)

Conduct Tourism Survey to guide marketing decisions (CCED)

Build a bandstand on the courthouse lawn (CCED)

Improve courthouse grounds (CCED)  
Address and encourage affordable housing needs in Dayton and Starbuck (CCED)  
Fund and construct ADA pathways (CCED)  
Continue Implementation of the B&O Main Street Tax Incentive Program (CCED)  
Plan for the highest use for all industrial lands (CCED)

### **13. WELLBEING FOR ALL**

Senior-friendly community  
Support for youth (2X)  
Resource center for youth / leadership empowerment (2X)  
Better year-round programs for youth  
Senior-friendly communities  
Best place to retire and stay independent  
Adult day-care  
Activities for all ages  
Opportunities for people who have been disabled from work  
Educate the community about people with disabilities  
Bosses to give time off to parents to attend the parent-teacher conferences  
Paid and longer maternity and paternity leave  
Facilities for the homeless (referring to Madison Park) not located so close to parks  
Quality affordable childcare for working families  
Youth opportunities that are not sports related  
Awareness and a network for youth foster parents  
An investment “after the bell” for young people. “consistent, not mobile”  
Affordable and flexible childcare and childcare for those with children with special needs  
Decision making that considers children  
Making sure there are high performing services for the elderly  
Housing for youth  
More training opportunities for youth  
Opportunities for youth (leadership, work ops, support, retention)  
Life skills for youth  
Increase opportunities for our children to envision futures for our communities  
Access to venues 17-31 inclusive of thinking training and soft skills  
Show our youth that they are loved  
Investment after the bell (schools)  
Priority and investment for those caring for children  
Building personal connections. Neighbor to neighbor.  
Parenting classes for all

Work on homelessness issue and increase all out neighborhoods living  
Legal weed  
Kind  
There was Food for less or more affordable  
There was more Help owning a pet  
Affordable child care  
Poverty  
Poverty and Homelessness maybe the cause of a much great problem  
(however there are not that many homeless more the poverty and can't pay  
their bills like lights etc.)  
At risk teens and risk factors  
Some parent taking care of large family (and just one parent who works)  
Youth hanging out downtown makes one think we aren't doing something  
right  
Increase in homelessness  
Diversify youth activity options- pool; get parents involved in the activities  
w/ their youth (cooking classes); many parents are not involved & don't  
know where their kids are  
Keeping kids busy; the kids whose parents aren't involved need something  
to do & somewhere to be- somewhere they can play ping pong-CCY not  
diversified enough  
People are stressed; no energy to parent, they're tapped out  
Broad section of our youth that are underserved: middle school &  
teenagers need stuff to do  
Youth center; community support  
Opportunities for kids to engage in positive things instead of gangs  
Dealing with the homeless is a fine line, what about their civil rights when it  
comes to how we "clean up" downtown.  
Not all parents can afford quality child care, many are depending on  
friends, family.  
Youth Shelter  
Veteran support  
Homelessness  
Homelessness  
Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness is an issue  
New arrivals not working or rentals disrupting neighborhoods  
Retirees from here leaving  
Cliques keeping people out  
Higher wage income- both parents working- kids are running astray no  
supervision  
More for children to do- free programs and transportation for children  
Less poverty: high value on families and livelihood  
Stronger families, prioritize children and families

Less homelessness: higher value on relationships and responsibility.  
Friendly community  
Emergency shelter (BMAC)  
Transitional housing (BMAC)  
Housing for special needs (BMAC)  
Utility bill assistance (BMAC)  
Rental assistance (BMAC)  
Housing repair assistance (BMAC)  
Energy efficiency assistance (BMAC)  
Affordable clothing resources (BMAC)  
Youth activities outside of school – need for prevention (Burbank)  
Develop adequate senior and retirement housing (CCED)  
Temporary/emergency housing assistance (CCED)  
Develop a sequential housing environment (CCED)  
Develop assisted living facility (CCED)  
Encourage youth activities (CCED)