



*"The cradle of innovation"*  
1919-2019



Borough of Forest Hills Comprehensive Plan  
Planning Commission

November 11, 2019



## Forest Hills Borough Comprehensive Plan – 2019

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## **Introduction**

As Forest Hills Borough commemorates its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2019, we have been considering our development needs for the future. Our community faces several challenges from changes in the climate, the ageing infrastructure, and in the maturing of our tree canopy and parks. Forest Hills Borough has a stable development profile, with only small areas of land available for new developments. In 2017, the Borough Council reviewed the requirements under the Municipal Code for a Comprehensive Plan update. The 2019 updated comprehensive plan develops a few action focus areas that are intended to be used as guidance for development and planning within the Borough.

Under the leadership of Richard Fosbrink, Member of the Forest Hills Planning Commission, a citizen committee was established and conducted a survey mailed to every household in Forest Hills. It was also available on the Forest Hills Borough web site. There were four community comment meetings in various locations around the Borough to gather public input about Forest Hills and plans forward. These were attended by about 168 people over the course of 2018. The Planning Commission met to review the recommendations and refine the goals and vision statement. This plan meets the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code Act of 1968, P.L.805, no. 247 as reenacted and amended. Article III Comprehensive Plan, Sections 301-304.

## **Acknowledgments**

We gratefully acknowledge the citizens and stakeholders of the Borough of Forest Hills who filled out surveys, participated in Community Input Meetings and shared comments on the web site. Appendix I. lists all the people who participated in this process as members of Forest Hills Borough committees or organizations.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Vision Statement:**

*The Borough of Forest Hills carries a tradition of innovation as the community grows in leadership toward a resilient future. The community values the natural beauty of its environment and enjoys the inclusiveness and diversity of its citizens, offering cultural, recreational, and educational services for all generations in safe and secure neighborhoods.*

The Comprehensive Plan addresses the following Goals for Development

### **Infrastructure: Building and Zoning Goals:**

- Increase mixed use zoning, especially in the business district. Expand small business options intermixed in neighborhoods to increase convenience and pedestrian access to local destinations.
- Update parking requirements to allow shared use of parking areas among businesses, residences and visitors.
- Preserve open space and park areas and consider vacant space for future park amenities.

### **Community Environmental Goals:**

- Address resilience and advanced planning for changes due to climate warming.
- Maintain leadership position expressed in the Net Zero Energy Borough Building and maintaining Tree City status
- Address concerns for recycling and permanent management of waste streams through regional collaboration
- Develop contingency and emergency management plans for storm water crises and infrastructure deterioration.
- Establish a Walkable Neighborhoods and trails access policy.

### **Business Development Goals:**

- Develop capacity for marketing and to form public-private partnerships.
- Develop desirable attributes to attract “Cradle of Innovation” businesses
- Create destinations within Forest Hills
- Develop a uniform and welcoming street façade along Ardmore Boulevard

### **Governance Goals:**

- Develop a modern communications system to exchange information with all citizens.
- Increase transparency and tracking for code enforcement actions.
- Define responsibility for maintaining Borough Trees vs private property trees.
- Establish non-motorized transportation options including pedestrian mobility and safety, bicycle travel, and access to public transportation.
- Maintain Borough public safety capacity through strong police, volunteer fire department, and emergency response services.

**Community Engagement Goals:**

- Expand opportunities for community engagement across all sectors – seniors, youth, families.
- Improve the number and nature of community activities.

## **Forest Hills Comprehensive Plan for Development – 2019**

### **1.0 Development Vision and Character of Future Development**

***Vision Statement:** The Borough of Forest Hills carries a tradition of innovation as the community grows in leadership toward a resilient future. The community values the natural beauty of its environment and enjoys the inclusiveness and diversity of its citizens, offering cultural, recreational, and educational services for all generations in safe and secure neighborhoods.*

The Borough of Forest Hills frames this update to the Comprehensive Plan at the close of its first century as a community. We recognize that the future presents unprecedented challenges in the advance of climate change and the consequences of global pollution. While many of the issues unfolding in our time are beyond the control of individual communities, responsible planning can build resilience for whatever the future brings. We recognize our heritage as we plan for the future around the characterization of our community as “The cradle of innovation” based on the legacy of Westinghouse and the potential for high-tech business development as a path forward.

This Comprehensive Plan reflects the policies adopted by the Borough Council providing direction and context for the goals and implementation steps included here. In particular, the Resolution in Support of the Paris Accord for Climate Action, adopted on January 16, 2018 drives planning for building efficiency, tree canopy preservation and non-motorized transportation options. Maintaining the Tree City USA status of the community is an important value recognized in this process. Other policies that pertain to development and planning include the Chickens and Bees Ordinance allowing urban agriculture; Oil and Gas Development Ordinance, limiting the development of such activity within the requirements of PA Act 31; Storm water management requirements of the Consent Decree with PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Allegheny County Sanitation Authority. The Forest Hills Borough Comprehensive Plan for Development recognizes the historic and cultural values of this community and adopts a policy of protecting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens

Forest Hills has the character of an affordable, urban, residential community with a range of housing options across the demographic and economic spectrum. We see opportunities to improve the business environment through creative public-private partnerships, and seek to

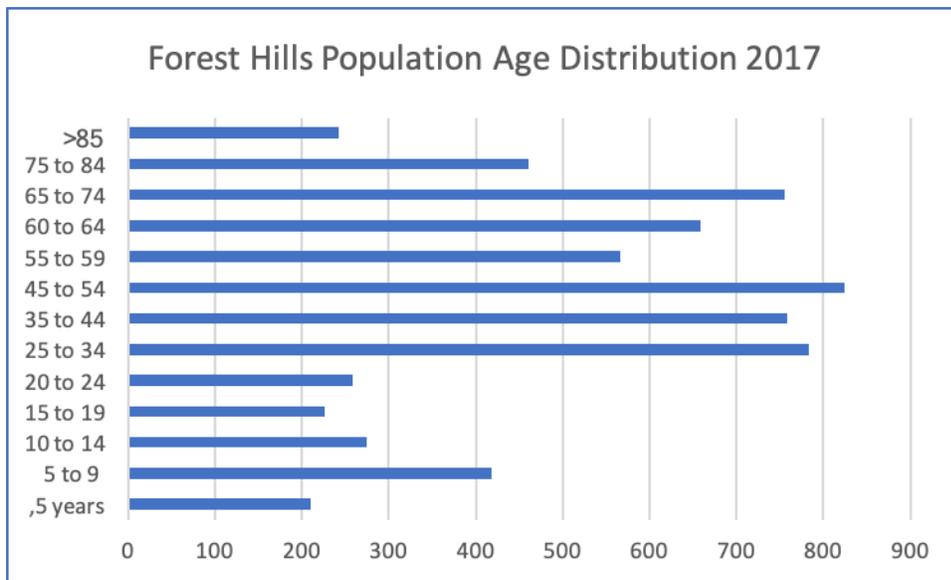
enhance the quality of life through maintaining excellent public parks and amenities. Planning for a stable financial position contributes to the attraction of this community.

## 2.0. The Community Survey of Population, Income, Housing and Economic Indicators

This survey of Population, Income and Housing is based on data compiled by United States Census Bureau Community Survey from 2010 to 2018. Data supporting this Survey are compiled in Appendix II.

**2.1. Population:** Forest Hills has a population of 6,466 people (2018 data), a decrease of 3.2% since the 2010 census; the median age is 48.2 years, above the Pennsylvania average of 40.6 years. Females constitute 53% of the population, with 22.7% of the population aged 65 and over, 3.3% under the age of five years, and 16.1% under the age of 18 years. There are 3,162 households, averaging two persons per household, with 76% occupied by owners.

**Figure 1. Forest Hills Population**

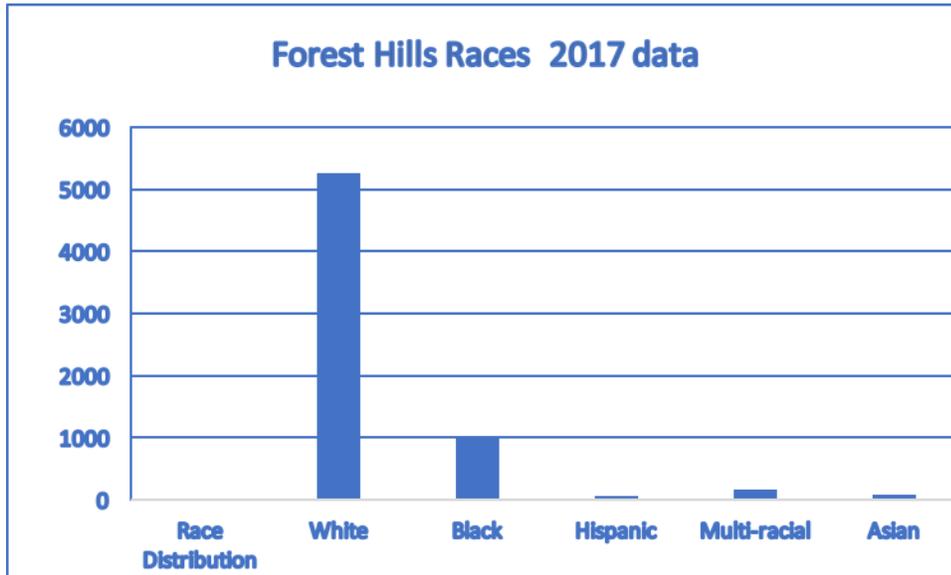


There are 1,459 citizens over the age of 65, the largest age cohort in the community.

**2.2. Education:** The community has a high level of education achievement with 99.3% of people aged 25 years or older having graduated from high school or higher, and 55.4% of people over 25 years of age having a Bachelor’s degree or higher. There is a high level of technology adoption with 89.6% of households having at least one computer and 81.4% having broadband internet subscriptions. The community has 457 children between ages 5 and 19 years served by the Woodland Hills School District and several private schools within the Borough and in adjacent communities in Pittsburgh.

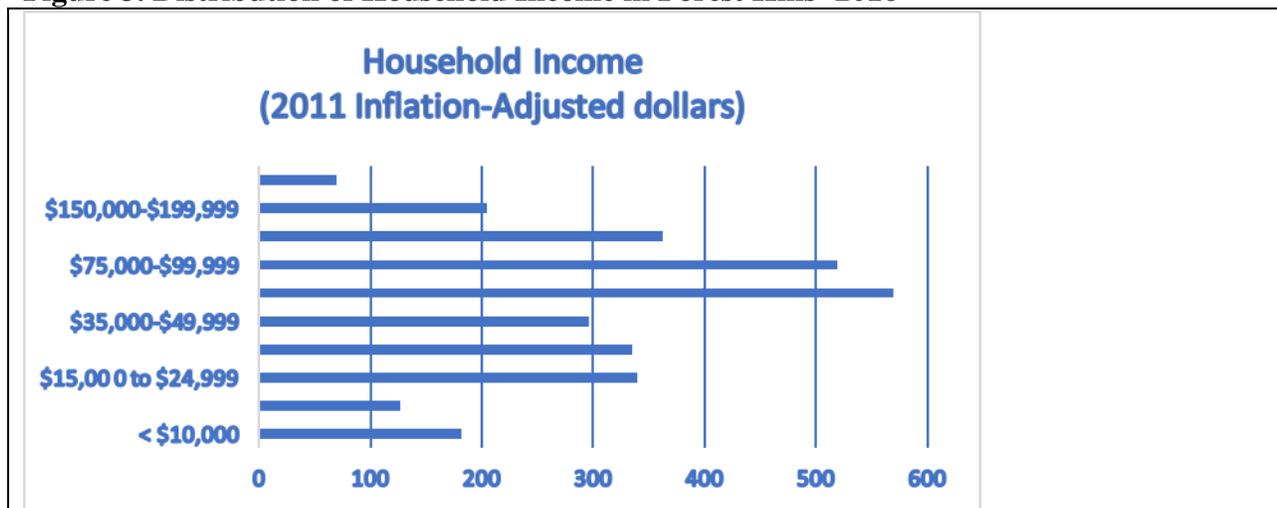
**2.3. Population racial demographic:** (Based on the 2013-2017 ACS DP-05) Census) Forest Hills remains predominately White (89%) with 15.1% Black, 1.1% Hispanic, 1.2% Asian, 1.3% Multi-racial, and 0.2% Other.

**Figure 2. Races in Forest Hills PA (2017)**



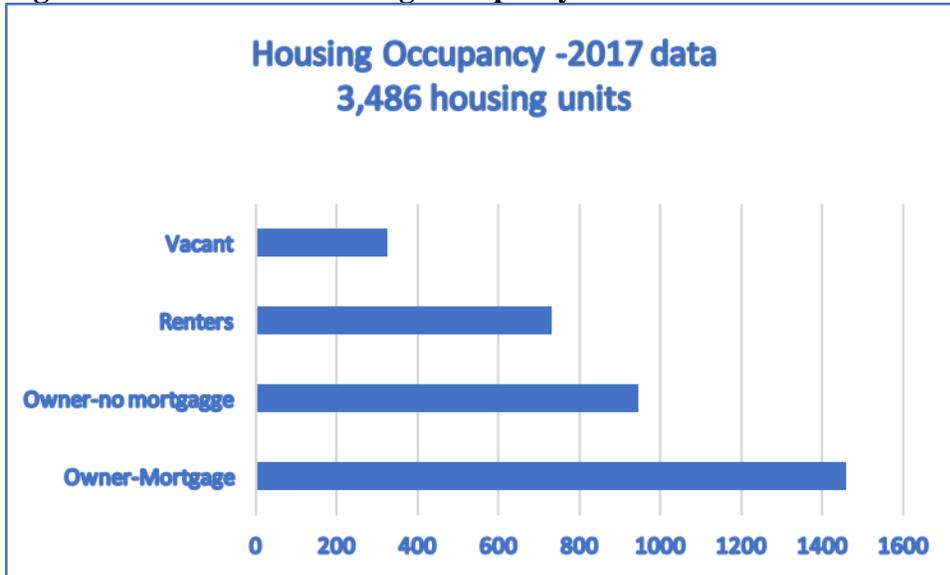
**2.4. Household Income:** The Estimated median household income in 2016 was \$65,648 (it was \$44,922 in 2000) compared to \$56,907 for Pennsylvania. Estimated per capita income in 2016 was \$39,485, an increase from \$26,505 in 2000. An estimated 6.4% of the population is living in poverty. (Citation: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Forest-Hills-Pennsylvania.html>)

**Figure 3. Distribution of Household Income in Forest Hills -2016**



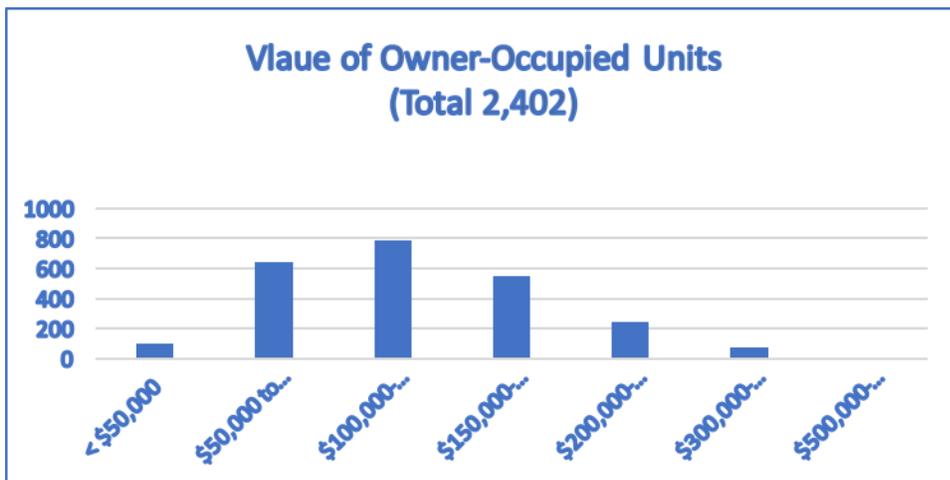
**2.5. Housing Profile:** The number of housing units in Forest Hills has remained stable with only a slight increase in the last decade. There are 3,486 housing units in Forest Hills as of 2017 American Community Survey indicators. (See Appendix II, DP-04 Selected Housing Characteristics for full data.)

**Figure 4. Forest Hills Housing Occupancy**



The Estimated median house or condo value in Forest Hills in 2016 was \$134,076, below the PA average of \$174,100. Mean prices in 2016 for all housing units was \$140,309; for detached houses, it was \$143,164; for townhouses or other attached units it was \$137,514; in 2-unit structures it was \$43,234; and in 5-or-more-unit structures it was \$52,995. Median gross rent in 2016 was \$769. The March 2019 cost of living index in Forest Hills was 93.7 (less than average, U.S. average is 100) (Citation <http://www.city-data.com/city/Forest-Hills-Pennsylvania.html>)

**Figure 5. Distribution of House Value in Forest Hills -2016**

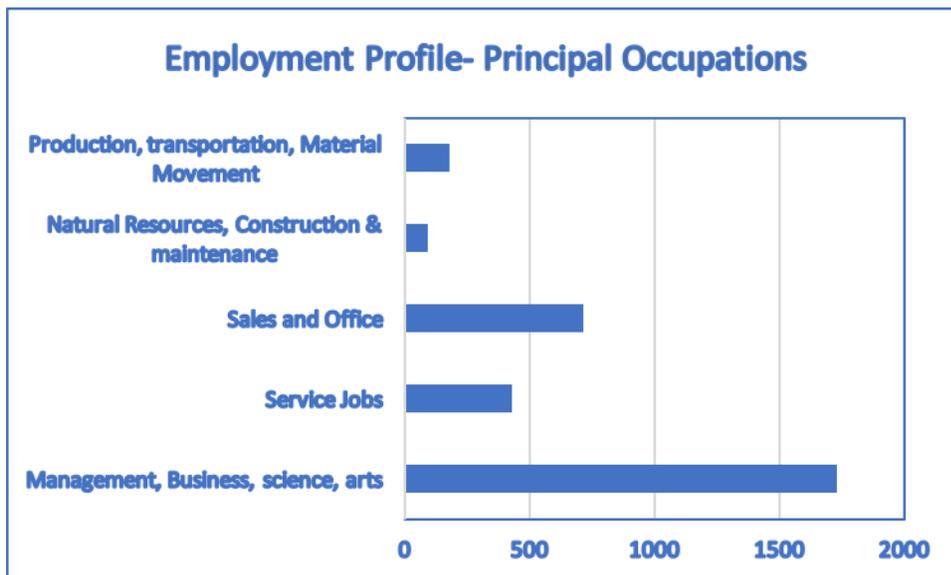


**2.6. Economy and Business Profile:**

The borough, with an estimated population of 6,427, is a primarily residential community, approximately seven miles east of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. It is in the Pittsburgh MSA, which we consider to be broad and diverse. The borough has a projected per capita effective buying income of 134% of the national level and per capita market value of \$53,752. Overall, market value grew by 1.8% over the past year to \$345.5 million in 2018. The county unemployment rate was 4.0% in 2018. Forest Hills residents benefit from access to the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County employment bases, resulting in strong per capita incomes. Many residents work in health care, education, and government, with leading employers in the county including University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh, and the federal government. In 2013, Allegheny County underwent a countywide reassessment which substantially increased property values. As a result, assessed values (AVs) declined 2014 through 2017 as residents appealed their assessments. AV increased slightly in 2018, indicating that improvements and new development have begun to outpace the appeals. The borough is nearly completely built-out, so we do not expect significant new development, but we anticipate some redevelopment projects. We expect modest growth in AV over the next two years. (Standard & Poors Global. 2019 Bond Rating for Forest Hills Borough. October 31, 2019.)

**Employment:** For 2013 – 2016, 68.1% of the population was engaged in the civilian labor force. There were 717 businesses registered in Forest Hills (2012 data) with Health Care, Education Services and Professional Services dominant. As of 2016, 90.4% of workers worked within Allegheny County and 7.1% of workers worked at home. Data source: <http://www.city-data.com/housing/houses-Forest-Hills-Pennsylvania.html>

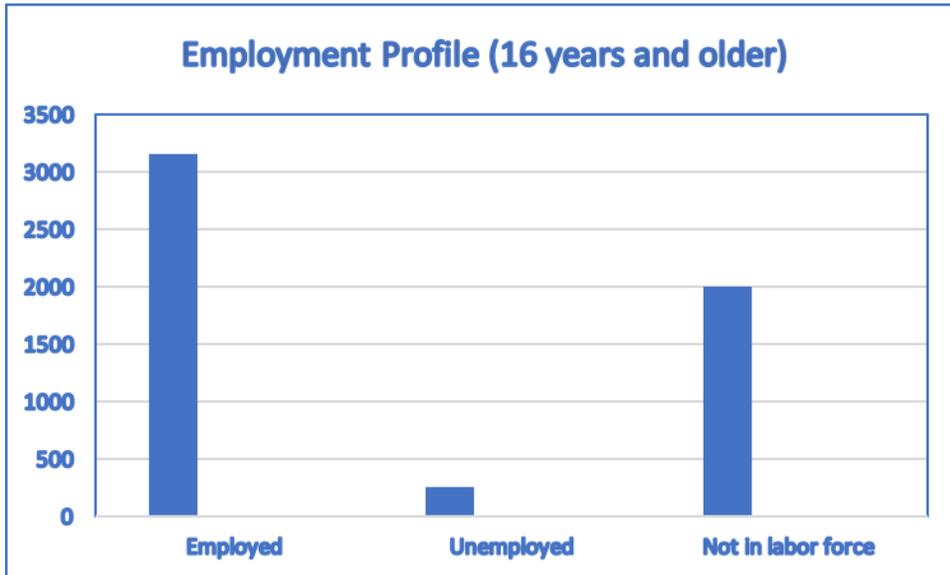
**Figure 6. Forest Hills Principal Occupations (2000)**



**Labor Force Profile:**

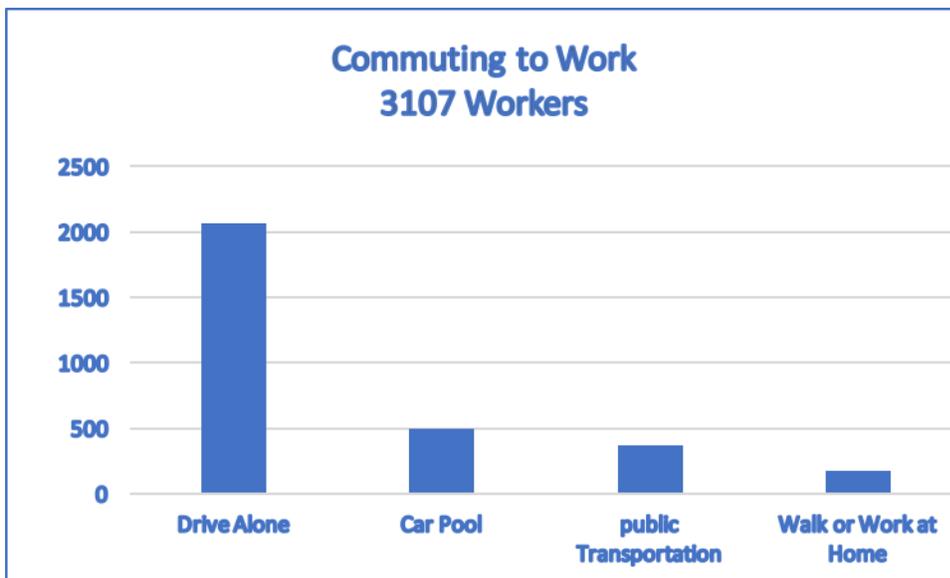
There are significant numbers of people not in the labor force, largely due to occupants of nursing homes and senior retired residents. The unemployment rate remains very low compared to surrounding areas.

**Figure 7. Forest Hills Employment Profile**



The majority of workers commute to work locations in single-occupancy vehicles. Public transit and pedestrian options remain limited in the community.

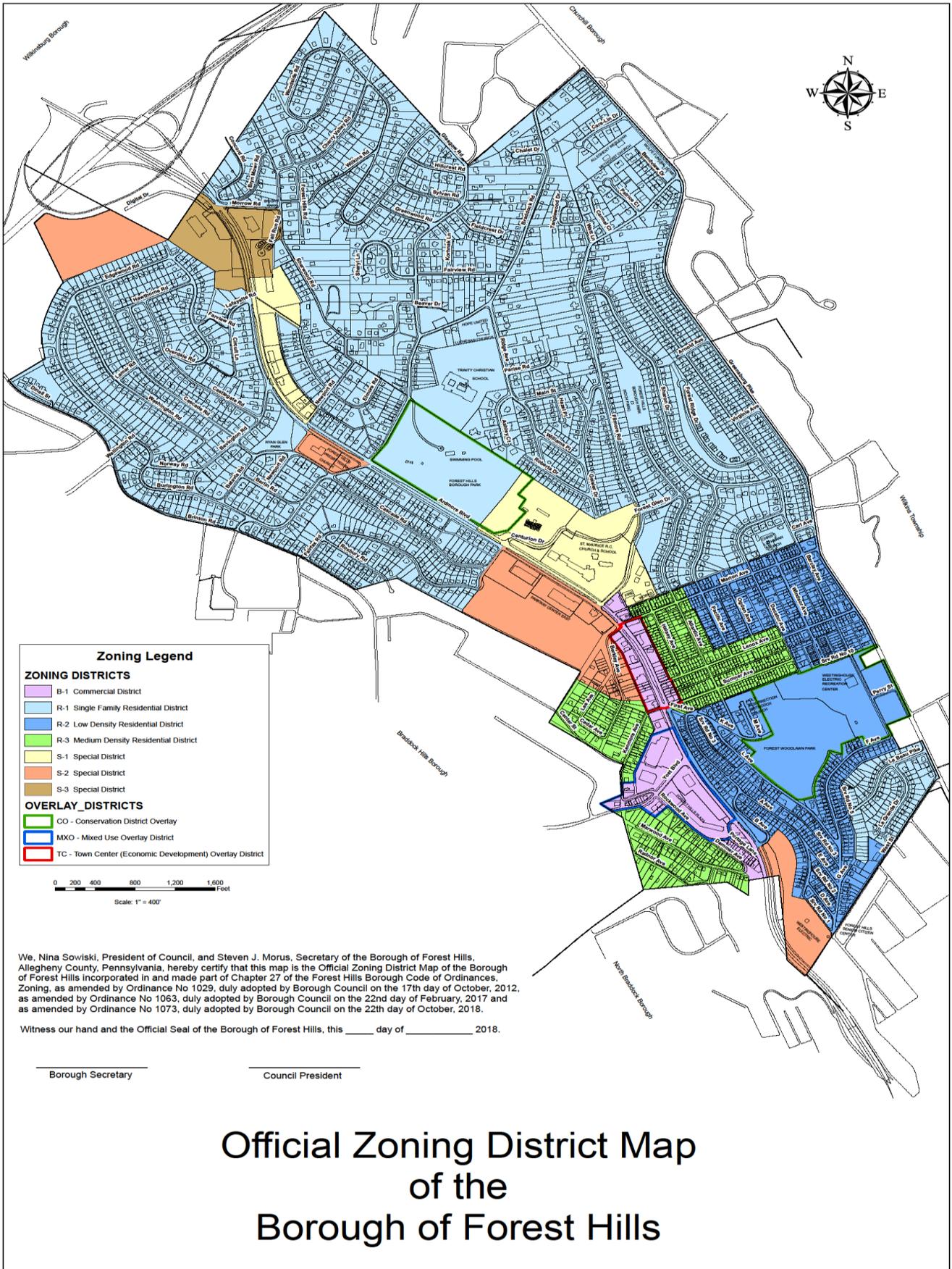
**Figure 8. Transportation Modes for Commuting**



**3.0. Planning Issues: Goals and Implementation Measures**

Based on significant discussion with stakeholders in the community, the following areas were identified for focus as development goals. Implementation measures are included for each goal, subject to budget constraints. Specific implementation plans will be developed annually as part of the budget process consistent with the fiscal, environmental and social priorities established by the Borough Council.

(See zoning map next page)



**Zoning Legend**

**ZONING DISTRICTS**

- B-1 Commercial District
- R-1 Single Family Residential District
- R-2 Low Density Residential District
- R-3 Medium Density Residential District
- S-1 Special District
- S-2 Special District
- S-3 Special District

**OVERLAY\_DISTRICTS**

- CO - Conservation District Overlay
- MXO - Mixed Use Overlay District
- TC - Town Center (Economic Development) Overlay District

0 200 400 800 1,200 1,600 Feet  
Scale: 1" = 400'

We, Nina Sowiski, President of Council, and Steven J. Morus, Secretary of the Borough of Forest Hills, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, hereby certify that this map is the Official Zoning District Map of the Borough of Forest Hills incorporated in and made part of Chapter 27 of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances, Zoning, as amended by Ordinance No 1029, duly adopted by Borough Council on the 17th day of October, 2012, as amended by Ordinance No 1063, duly adopted by Borough Council on the 22nd day of February, 2017 and as amended by Ordinance No 1073, duly adopted by Borough Council on the 22th day of October, 2018.

Witness our hand and the Official Seal of the Borough of Forest Hills, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

# Official Zoning District Map of the Borough of Forest Hills

### **3.1 Land Use and Infrastructure**

The Zoning areas have changed only slightly since the 2003 updated Plan. The principal change has been to move the Borough municipal offices away from Ardmore Boulevard in the center of the Business District to land the Borough owned at the Westinghouse complex on Greensburg Pike. This move allows several important Borough functions to be consolidated with improved access to the community. It also sets out a standard for new building in the Borough by providing a model for a net zero energy structure that is cost-efficient to both build and operate. Zoning Overlay Districts were established as Conservation Overlay District, a Mixed- Use Overlay District, and a Town Center (Economic Development) Overlay District. The 2018 Forest Hills Zoning Map is on the Page 10.

#### **Land Use and Infrastructure Goals:**

1. *Increase mixed use zoning, especially in the business district. Expand small business options intermixed in neighborhoods to increase convenience and pedestrian access to local destinations.* This goal reflects the interest in having amenities close to residences, within walking distance. This goal also reflects the historic configuration of the business district along Ardmore Boulevard as a mixed residential and business use. Many people conduct business from their homes, either as telecommuters or as small entrepreneurs. As part of the Climate Action Planning, efforts to increase the efficiency and convenience of telecommuting or work-from-home operations will focus on expanding mixed use zoning, within limits.
2. *Update parking requirements to allow shared use of parking areas among businesses, residences and visitors, rather than a set formula of parking spaces required for each business or residence.* Parking has been identified as a major impediment to commercial development and the vibrancy of the Business District. However, many vacant parking spaces exist in dedicated areas that could serve multiple constituencies. Finding a good combination of parking and pedestrian safe access routes is the goal for this plan. The larger challenge is the speed of traffic down Ardmore Boulevard, which is in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation plans as an expedited access road to I-376 and the PA Turnpike.
3. *Preserve open space and park areas and consider vacant space for future park amenities.* Approximately 12% of the land in Forest Hills is dedicated to eight public parks and open space. Maintaining the parks and open spaces is a significant aspect of the quality of life in Forest Hills. As properties become available, additional open spaces and park areas will be considered.

#### **Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Actions:**

1. Update Zoning Ordinances
2. Address vacant and abandoned properties through the Tri- COG Land Bank (Municipalities: Blawnox, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Clairton, Dravosburg, East Pittsburgh, Edgewood, Etna, Forest Hills, McKeesport, Millvale, Monroeville, North Braddock, Pitcairn, Rankin, Sharpsburg, South Versailles, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, White Oak, Wilkins; School Districts: Clairton City SD, Fox Chapel Area SD, Gateway SD, McKeesport Area SD, Shaler SD, Woodland Hills SD; and Allegheny County)

3. Establish Forest Hills Borough as a 2030 Eco-District beginning with public buildings and progressing to private business buildings.

### **3.2 Environment and Resilience**

The Borough of Forest Hills is an urban community with high value on natural environment and amenities. The mature tree canopy on both public and private property gives the community an atmosphere of serenity and contributes to a diversity of natural habitat that supports a wide range of wildlife, including wild turkeys, and over 40 species of birds. Although a formal documentation of the biodiversity of the community has not been compiled, the public plantings on Ardmore Boulevard and surrounding the Borough municipal building have been designed to attract and support pollinators. Ordinances supporting domestic cultivation of bees and chickens has received good support in the community.

Forest Hills Borough lies in the air emissions plume from industrial operations in adjacent communities, and suffers air quality issues as a consequence. While policies within this community are likely to have little direct effect on air quality, collaboration in regional efforts remains a priority.

Forest Hills is part of a Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to address storm water runoff and sewer overflows. Trees, green surfaces and bio-swales in several areas contribute to green infrastructure controls. As part of the ALCOSAN (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority) plan, Forest Hills makes inspections of sewer pipes on a regular basis and makes appropriate repairs and adjustments to comply with storm water management practices.

Forest Hills along with most other communities, uses a contracted waste management service for trash and recycled materials removal. As the rules for recycling are changing in response to market changes, Forest Hills will be developing new practices to address recycling and waste reduction. The Borough collects yard waste and composts the shredded material for use by residents for mulch through the Public Works Department. New initiatives in recycling are likely to emerge in the coming years.

Forest Hills has adopted a Climate Action Resolution and is compiling greenhouse gas emissions data and will develop a Climate Action Plan by June of 2020 through a Department of Community and Economic Development and ICLEI grant providing technical assistance. The Forest Hills Environmental Advisory Council is active in presenting workshops, seminars and program activities to the community on environmental issues, including responses to climate change and pollution.

#### **Environment Goals**

1. *Address resilience and advanced planning for changes due to climate warming.* This planning process is underway with expected completion by June 2020. Under a grant received from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and ICLEI, a Greenhouse Gas Inventory is being compiled and entered into a standardized database, which will be easily updated into the future. A Climate Action Plan Draft will be developed based on this information.

2. *Maintain leadership position expressed in the Net Zero Energy Borough Building and maintaining Tree City status.* The Forest Hills Borough building completed in 2018 has established the parameters for a net zero energy performance building. The passive solar design with a geothermal heating and cooling system and a photovoltaic array on the south-facing roof has produced slightly more energy than the building used in its first year of operation. This building process has been a model for other communities and also serves as a template for future building construction. We will be considering ways to encourage implementation of these building principles throughout Borough operations and as much as possible in private properties.
3. *Address concerns for recycling and permanent management of waste streams through regional collaboration.* Forest Hills Borough participates in CONNECT, the Congress of Neighboring Communities including and surrounding Pittsburgh. This organization has a working group addressing Environment and Economic Development which has its focus on waste management and recycling. Two groups of experts from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and the Covestro SkillShare program are working with CONNECT communities to address a regional solution to these important issues.
4. *Develop contingency and emergency management plans for storm water crises and infrastructure deterioration.* Forest Hills has experienced several landslides and road erosion from heavy storms and water flows. We also have experienced extended power outages (more than three days) due to storms and high winds. In some situations, the Borough Building was offered as a place for people to find shelter, charge communication devices, or seek assistance. A more formal system and procedure for such community emergency support may be a wise addition to our emergency management system.
5. *Establish a Walkable Neighborhoods and trails access policy.* Forest Hills residents use automobiles with single occupancy for most of the transportation needs in the community. Access to more frequent and convenient public transit options could reduce commuting in single-occupancy vehicles. There is also limited access to safe bicycle lanes on major roads and corridors, and pedestrian walkways in many parts of the community are not defined with paved sidewalks. Although there are seven parks within Forest Hills, they are not connected by convenient walkways or paths, and all parks are not easily accessible by pedestrian travel within neighborhoods.

**Environment Implementation Actions:**

1. Adopt a Climate Action Plan to address all sectors of community- government, residential, commercial and transportation including contingency plans for mitigating climate change effects. This will include a 2030 Eco-District as a public-private partnership between businesses and the Borough of Forest Hills to improve energy efficiency, storm water management, and transportation practices.
2. Develop a plan and secure services of a certified Arborist to oversee maintaining, replanting and caring for the Forest Hills tree canopy on both public and private land.
3. Develop a prioritized action plan for storm water management and infrastructure improvement, including green infrastructure, in the Capital Budget.
4. Develop a plan for safe sidewalks and bicycle paths in Forest Hills, including a schedule of sidewalk improvements/repairs projects, and defined bicycle lanes. (This will require

collaboration with both the State of Pennsylvania Department of transportation for Route 30 (Ardmore Boulevard) and Allegheny County (Greensburg Pike and Brinton road)

### **3.3 Business Development**

The Forest Hills business district offers the convenience of direct and expeditious connections to both local communities and to state and national corridors through a direct access to Interstate 376 that connects to the City of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Turnpike within 15 miles radius. However, the divided four-lane Route 30 runs directly through the middle of the Business District, with narrow sidewalks on either side, making a cohesive community center difficult to implement in this space. Within the challenge of this transportation situation, there are several opportunities to enhance the business environment in Forest Hills. The re-establishment of the Forest Hills Community Development Corporation (Forest Hills CDC) as of August 2019 opens several possibilities for new initiatives.

The nature of business is changing rapidly as retail businesses are increasingly adapting to on-line purchase and delivery operations. There are also several emerging business areas that are well-suited to Forest Hills. One is the possibility to attract high tech businesses moving from the five business incubators in the greater Pittsburgh area. The GOOGLE operation in Bakery Square, less than six miles from the Forest Hills Business District, can become a High-Tech Corridor for support industries, research operations, suppliers. Re-configuring the existing retail spaces can accommodate new kinds of businesses and professional services.

The property on which the Westinghouse Atom Smasher was located has potential for development as a center for information and education about the significance and effect of the basic research on particle physics that took place at the Westinghouse nuclear research facility that housed it. The Borough of Forest Hills will strive to work with the property owner to establish this location as a destination of regional and national interest. Although the atom smasher itself is not eligible for historic restoration because the building on which it was supported was dismantled for remediation of the site, the history of its operation has significant value for the future. The property is currently in private hands.

#### **Business Development Goals:**

1. *Develop capacity for marketing and to form public-private partnerships.* Having the Forest Hills CDC take an active role in marketing, promotion, and restoration of the Forest Hills Business District. The Forest Hills CDC can obtain grant funds to use as leverage to assist with improvements, for example through the Complete Streets program and other programs.
2. *Develop desirable attributes to attract “Cradle of Innovation” businesses.* The Forest Hills CDC and the Borough of Forest Hills can collaborate to re-frame Forest Hills’ image as “The Cradle of Innovation” based on its history and current leadership in green building. A new marketing strategy using electronic communication and professional media can enhance the attractiveness of Forest Hills for business development.
3. *Create destinations within Forest Hills.* Recreational and cultural amenities as well as increased diversity in entertainment and food service establishments can enhance the appeal of Forest Hills to the wider community. Addressing the pedestrian safety issues along Ardmore Boulevard is essential to the success of this initiative.

4. *Develop a uniform and welcoming street façade along Ardmore Boulevard.* This is another opportunity for a public-private partnership. Creating an ambiance of community that shows care for the buildings and open spaces can enhance the Forest Hills experience.

**Business Development Implementation Actions:**

1. Reinstate the Community Development Corporation (Completed August 2019) as a vehicle to enable public-private partnerships and develop a marketing strategy to promote business in Forest Hills.
2. Change zoning requirements to alleviate parking issues.
3. Expand the Business District to include the area from Centurion Common to Electric Avenue (including the two business plazas).
4. Establish traffic calming and speed control along Ardmore Boulevard to improve pedestrian safety. (This action will require collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of transportation.)

**3.4 Governance and Administration:**

The Borough of Forest Hills has maintained a AA Bond rating, indicating a sound fiscal base of operations. Due to sound fiscal practices, the Borough has been able to meet several unexpected requirements such as the extensive repair of the Forest hills Swimming Pool in 2018 as well as the construction of a new Borough Building and addressing several emergency infrastructure issues such as landslides. With good collaboration between the Borough Council and the citizens of the community, sound governance practices will continue. The Borough employs an excellent professional staff whose dedication and professional expertise greatly enhance the operations of the Borough of Forest Hills at all levels.

Standard & Poors Global assessment of Forest Hills Borough views the borough's management as strong, with good financial policies and practices under our FMA methodology, indicating financial practices exist in most areas, but that governance officials might not formalize or monitor all of them on a regular basis. The borough uses ten years of historical data when developing the budget and the board receives monthly update statements with budget-to-actuals which includes investment holdings. It also has a five-year capital improvement plan that is updated annually and identifies costs of all projects but not necessarily the funding sources. The borough has a policy to maintain a minimum budget reserve of 5% of budget and maximum of 10%, with an average of 7%, which it is currently meeting. If it were to draw on its budget reserve, the policy instructs that it should be replenished within two years. Additionally, the borough has plans and processes in place to prevent and mitigate cyber-attacks. (Standard & Poors Global. 2019 Bond Rating for Forest Hills Borough. October 31, 2019.)

The Borough meets or exceeds requirements for maintaining the public safety and health of the community through efficient, responsive Police, Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Management Services. The crime rate in Forest Hills falls far below the averages for the surrounding areas, the State of Pennsylvania or the nation as a whole. The location and attributes

of the new Borough Building complex offers easier access to more citizens and provides a central location for community services.

We face challenges in the changing expectations for local government engagement with issues ranging from infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement to new challenges in public safety that stem from forces outside our own community, including significant potential increases in truck through traffic due to industrial operations in adjacent communities.

One of the greatest challenges comes from the loss of a daily newspaper, and the fragmented methods for modern communication. With a population highly connected to electronic communication systems, we will be seeking improved mechanisms for reaching our citizens and receiving feedback from them,

**Governance Goals:**

1. *Identify digital communications media to communicate and exchange information with all Borough residents.* With a highly educated and electronically connected population, a digital communication platform for Borough communications should be feasible. The Borough strives to inform residents of opportunities for comment on pending actions, and to receive comments and ideas from residents about Borough actions and activities.
2. *Increase transparency and tracking for code enforcement actions.* Several participants in the Comprehensive Plan review process expressed concern about Building Code Enforcement procedures, timing and execution of Code Enforcement Actions and notice of violations. Much of this information is presented at Borough Council meetings, but ways to communicate to the public beyond invitations to attend Council meetings are limited.
3. *Resolve ambiguity of responsibility for maintaining Borough Trees vs private property trees.* The tree canopy is important to people in Forest Hills. Trees are also a controversial topic, especially when property owners are not sure of the status of trees, and responsibility for maintaining or cutting and replacing trees.
4. *Establish non-motorized transportation options including pedestrian mobility and safety, bicycle travel, and access to public transportation.* This issue has been discussed under Environment section, but it is clear that transportation efficiency, access and diverse mobility services are part of the governance
5. *Maintain Borough public safety capacity through strong police, volunteer fire department, and emergency response services.* The Borough of Forest Hills maintains excellent standards for performance and response in the Police Department, and fully expects to continue to set high standards for community safety with highly trained and responsive Officers who value community service. The presence of a strong and highly trained Volunteer Fire Department adds a significant value to the community.

**Governance Implementation Actions:**

1. Implement appropriate digital communications processes to communicate and exchange information with all Borough residents.
2. Publish a map of Borough Trees locations and establish clear rules for tree preservation, maintenance and re-planting.

3. Improve the number and condition of sidewalks throughout the Borough. Identify prioritized sidewalk improvement projects to be addressed through Capital Improvement budget and public-private partnerships with the Borough and business or residential property owners.
4. Publish code enforcement actions in a specific area of the Borough web site.

### **3.5 Community Engagement**

The Borough of Forest Hills offers numerous opportunities for community engagement both in public service to the community and as community-based participation in events, programs and services. During the 2019 Centennial Year, many additional events drew the community together for celebration. This opportunity created a greater awareness of the value of having times to gather together for shared experiences, and we are seeking ways to expand these opportunities.

The Forest Hills Borough has many people who participate regularly as members of advisory boards and commissions in service to the community. In addition, recreational programs are offered at the Westinghouse Lodge, the Pool Lodge, the Library, and Community room of the Borough Building throughout the year. Borough parks are available for community and family use on a fee basis throughout the summer within specific guidelines.

In this Comprehensive Plan, we address ways to enhance the use of Borough properties and amenities to further engage the residents as a shared community experience.

#### **Goals:**

1. *Expand opportunities for community engagement across all sectors – seniors, youth, families.* The Borough of Forest Hills has a broad demographic and a population increasing in diversity in demography as well as age distribution. Community amenities and activities should reflect these trends, especially with programs and services for youth and seniors, as well as activities and amenities that support family gatherings.
2. *Improve the number and nature of community activities.* Forest Hills has traditionally held two major community events- Community Day at Fourth of July, and the Hayride in October. The Library presents a variety of programs, including Author and Artist events, book club events and a variety of outreach programs supported by Friends of the Library. Following the highly successful Centennial events, there is demand and interest in monthly Concert in the Parks events for the summer as well as Movie Night in the winter months.

#### **Implementation Actions:**

1. Establish a Forest Hills Arts and Culture Council responsible for planning and presenting community engagement opportunities such as “Summer Concerts in the Parks”, a Forest Hills Film Festival, etc.
2. Publicize and encourage community participation in programs of existing community organizations including the Library, Rotary, Borough recreation Programs
3. Extend a welcome package including one free Pool Pass to each new resident within a month of moving to Forest Hills.

### **4.0 Short and Long-term Planning Strategies**

#### **4.1 Short-Term Implementation Strategies**

The Borough of Forest Hills faces four challenges that are likely to have an effect of development planning within the next two to three years.

First, the new consent Decree for storm water management with ALCOSAN and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection may require infrastructure additions that affect existing land uses. Forest Hills endeavors to use green infrastructure such as bio-swales, trees and natural plantings, and rain gardens to abate the need for additional constructed storm water management impoundments or culverts.

Second, as Forest Hills continues to plan for mitigating and abating the effects of climate change throughout the community, we will be seeking to partner with businesses and residents to integrate climate action into the quality of life in the community.

Third, the transportation corridors along State Route 30 (Ardmore Boulevard) and County-owned Greensburg Pike have a significant controlling effect on Forest Hills both for business opportunities and for pedestrian safety. Forest Hills expects to collaborate closely with both the State Department of Transportation and Allegheny County to address improved conditions on both of these corridors.

Fourth, the evolving market conditions surrounding waste management, especially for materials with the potential for recycling or recovery, present both challenges and opportunities. Waste reduction strategies have implications for both climate action, water and air quality, and business development.

The Borough of Forest Hills will explore establishing an Eco-District for a portion or all of the area of the Borough according to the following objectives:

1. Collaborate: Develop key partnerships with investment stakeholders; re-imagine neighborhoods as partners
2. Build equity into every decision: Identify burdens and benefits in all policies considered.
3. Design with Nature: Incorporate ecological impact in every infrastructure investment decision, especially energy, water, buildings, roads.
4. Create healthy communities: Complete a health assessment for each community and incorporate health impact considerations into every policy decision.
5. Tackle the climate crisis: define and address the legacy issues of coal, gas and steel; assess neighborhood vulnerability and ability to respond or mitigate effects of climate change in “the last mile”
6. Measure impact of changes and embrace transparency: define meaningful metrics for the community to assess investments, actions and policies. E.g.: heat maps of energy losses; pollution corridors from monitoring data. Establish effective communication of results.

The process will be conducted in conjunction with establishing a Climate Action Plan based on community wide data, in accordance with resolutions and policies adopted by the Forest Hills Borough council.

All of these challenges present interconnected conditions that will require collaboration within Forest Hills governance structure as well as with neighboring communities.

### **4.2 Long-Term Implementation Strategies**

The Zoning Ordinances may be reviewed and updated to accommodate the goals of this Comprehensive Plan. The challenges for community development can be addressed through two mechanisms available to the Borough of Forest Hills.

First, the infrastructure improvements associated with both transportation and storm water management are considered within the Capital Improvements Budget each year. Capital requirements are considered each year in the five-year capital budget process. Priorities and planning to address emerging challenges should be reviewed as part of the long-term comprehensive planning process.

Second, the Forest Hills Community Development Corporation has been re-instated as a certified IRS 501(c) (3) entity as of August 2019. This CDC allows the formation of public-private partnerships to implement several of the comprehensive plan goals discussed in this Plan. This entity will be especially effective for establishing such climate action goals as the 2030 Eco-District and re-imagining the Business District as a part of a high- tech corridor from Google operations and universities in Oakland down Penn avenue and Ardmore Boulevard. The CDC can also funnel grant funds for marketing, business development and community image improvement.

### **Compliance Statement**

This Comprehensive Plan for Development is consistent with and does not exceed the requirements imposed under the following Pennsylvania Statutes:

- (i) Act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394), known as “The Clean Streams Law”.
- (ii) Act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the “Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act”.
- (iii) Act of April 27, 1966 (1st SP.SESS., P.L.31, No.1), known as “The Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act”.
- (iv) Act of September 24, 1968 (P.L.1040, No.318), known as the “Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act”.
- (v) Act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the “Oil and Gas Act”.
- (vi) Act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1093, No.219), known as the “Non-coal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act”.
- (vii) As of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the “Agricultural Area Security Law”.
- (viii) Act of June 10, 1982 (P.L.454, No.133), entitled “An Act Protecting Agricultural Operations from Nuisance Suits and Ordinances Under Certain Circumstances”.

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(ix) Act of May 20, 1993 (P.L.12, No.6), known as the “Nutrient Management Act,” regardless of whether any agricultural operation within the area to be affected by the plan is a concentrated animal operation as defined under the act.

**Appendix I**  
**Acknowledgements**

## **Appendix I. Acknowledgments**

**The professional staff of the Borough of Forest Hills supported this effort.**

Thanks to Steven Morus, Borough Manager; Wendelin Archer, Treasurer; Allison Serakowski, Administration and Finance; Annie Vamos, Administrative Assistant.

**The Following people and organizations participated in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update:**

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**Mayor Frank Porco**

**Input was also received from:**

### **The Recreation Board**

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### **The Environmental Advisory Council**

Margaret Reed, Christopher West, Valerie Miller, JoAnn Morse, Barbara Martin, Laura Budde

### **The Tree and Shrub Commission**

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### **The Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department**

Jim Theilacker, Rick Colella, Robert Henkel II, Adam McDermott, Jason Petri, Thomas Theilacker

**Appendix II**  
**Community Survey Data**

## **Appendix II. Community Survey Data**

The following data sources were used to compile the United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey for Forest Hills Borough. (citation <http://www.city-data.com/city/Forest-Hills-Pennsylvania.html> (Accessed October 17, 2019))

United States Census Bureau Community Survey from 2010 to 2018  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/foresthillsboroughpennsylvania> (Accessed October 17, 2019.)

### **Index of Data Files:**

**DP-1** Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data. United States Census Bureau

**DP05** ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**DP05** ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**DP04** SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**DP03** SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**EC1200A1** All sectors: Geographic Area Series: Economy-Wide Key Statistics: 2012 2012 Economic Census of the United States

**S2401** OCCUPATION BY SEX FOR THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**S0801** COMMUTING CHARACTERISTICS BY SEX 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Appendix III**  
**Comprehensive Plan Survey Data Analysis**

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How long have you lived in Forest Hills?	Count of How long have you lived in Forest Hills?2
1 - 5 years	80	18%
11 - 20 years	86	19%
20+ years	208	46%
6 - 10 years	53	12%
Less than 1 year	22	5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of The housing I live in can best be described as:	Count of The housing I live in can best be described as:2
Apartment	6	1%
Condominium	9	2%
Duplex	7	2%
Other	1	0%
Single-family home	425	95%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Do you currently own or rent the housing you live in?	Count of Do you currently own or rent the housing you live in?2
Live with parents, relatives or others	8	2%
Other	1	0%
Own	425	95%
Rent	14	3%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How many people live in your household including yourself?	Count of How many people live in your household including yourself?2
1	90	20%
2	209	47%
3	62	14%
4	56	13%
5	23	5%
6+	6	1%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of What is your marital status?	Count of What is your marital status?2

Divorced	33	7%
Married	301	67%
Separated	4	1%
Single	80	18%
Widowed	28	6%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How many children under 18 years old live in your household?	Count of How many children under 18 years old live in your household?2
0	342	76%
1	50	11%
2	34	8%
3+	22	5%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of What best describes your age group?	Count of What best describes your age group?2
18 - 24	4	1%
25 - 34	66	15%
35 - 44	73	16%
45 - 54	61	14%
55 - 64	106	24%
65 - 74	101	23%
75+	37	8%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of What is your employment status?	Count of What is your employment status?2
Caregiver (e.g., children, elderly)	14	3%
Employed full-time	238	53%
Employed part-time	24	5%
Other	3	1%
Out of work and looking for work	5	1%
Out of work but not currently looking for work	7	2%
Retired	128	29%
Self-employed	27	6%
Student	2	0%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How far do you commute to work?	Count of How far do you commute to work?2
1 - 5 miles	63	24%
11 - 20 miles	26	10%
6 - 10 miles	131	50%
I work from home	22	8%
Over 20 miles	21	8%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of What is your gender?	Count of What is your gender?2
Female	274	61%
Male	164	37%
Non-binary/ third gender	1	0%
Other	1	0%
Prefer not to answer	7	2%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of What is the highest level of education you completed?	Count of What is the highest level of education you completed?2
College degree	182	41%
Graduate degree	175	39%
High school graduate or GED	39	9%
Other	17	4%
Technical or vocational training	32	7%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How would you describe your racial/ethnic background?	Count of How would you describe your racial/ethnic background?2
African American, Black	4	1%
Blank	28	6%
Caucasian, White	413	87%
Hispanic	5	1%
Mixed ethnic heritage	2	0%
Other	4	1%
Prefer not to answer	19	4%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Which of the following categories best reflects your total household	Count of Which of the following categories best reflects your total household income?2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	101	23%
\$12,000 - \$19,999	8	2%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	42	9%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	30	7%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	5	1%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	57	13%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	56	13%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	65	15%
Don't Know	2	0%
Over \$250,000	8	2%
Prefer not to answer	70	16%
Under \$12,000	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Sense of community and inclusion]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Sense of community and inclusion]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		191	40%
Yes		217	46%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Close to employment]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Close to employment]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		270	57%
Yes		138	29%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Family & friends]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Family & friends]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		265	56%
Yes		143	30%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Safe place to raise children]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Safe place to raise children]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		254	53%
Yes		154	32%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Commitment to environment/Tree City Design]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Commitment to environment/Tree City Design]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		225	47%
Yes		183	39%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Community Activities (Farmer's Market, Chili C	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Community Activities (Farmer's Market, Chili Cook-Off, Community Day, Hay Ride)]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		184	39%
Yes		224	47%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Community assets (Pool, Parks, Dog Park, etc.)]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Community assets (Pool, Parks, Dog Park, etc.)]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		168	35%
Yes		240	51%
(blank)			0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Variety of affordable housing with character]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Variety of affordable housing with character]2	Values
N/A		67	14%
No		175	37%

Yes	233	49%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Reasonable tax rate, fiscally well managed]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Reasonable tax rate, fiscally well managed]2
N/A	67	14%
No	298	63%
Yes	110	23%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Quality of Schools]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Quality of Schools]2
N/A	67	14%
No	386	81%
Yes	22	5%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [High Quality Emergency Services (Police, Fire, EMS)]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [High Quality Emergency Services (Police, Fire, EMS)]2
N/A	67	14%
No	234	49%
Yes	174	37%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Best overall value]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Best overall value]2
N/A	67	14%
No	265	56%
Yes	143	30%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Proximity to Pittsburgh]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Proximity to Pittsburgh]2
N/A	67	14%
No	90	19%
Yes	318	67%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Close to major highways]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Close to major highways]2
N/A	67	14%
No	128	27%
Yes	280	59%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Public transit availability (Bus Lines, Flivver)]	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Public transit availability (Bus Lines, Flivver)]2
N/A	67	14%
No	295	62%
Yes	113	24%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What do you like about living in Forest Hills? [Other]
business district has nice variety of stores and having local eateries is always great.	1
Church	1
Close to in-laws. wife owned house when I married her	1
close to what i need	1
Community Pool!	1
fiivver	1
I feel safe walking the streets	1
I have lived here 68 yrs and have watched things go down hill since the school merger.	1
I really dislike the sutveys that seek ny saying this area is good.	1
It's pretty here with all of the trees.	1
Lived here 50 years very comfortable and safe	1
Low crime, lots of green spaces and trees	1
my great gand parents lived where i now live and grew upon.	1
neighbors	2
pool	1
Potential	1
Proximity to Oakland/Shadyside	1
Quiet dead end street.	1
Road crew	1
Small community close to shops	1
Snow removal is excellent!	1
Suburban peace	1
THE SWIMMING POOL!	1
There are homes for sale around \$100K.	1
Very affordable housing.	1
trees	1
Trinity Christian School	1
We moved here to be near Trinity Christian School.	1
What's not to like.	1
Wooded Setting	1
(blank)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of How would you rate the quality of life in Forest Hills?	Count of How would you rate the quality of life in Forest Hills?2
Excellent	140	35%
Fair	31	8%
Good	228	57%
Poor	2	0%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Do you believe the quality of life in Forest Hills is:	Count of Do you believe the quality of life in Forest Hills is:2
Declining	109	27%
Improving	115	29%
Remaining the s	177	44%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100%</b>

**1ST RANKED VALUE**

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 1]2
Adaptability and resilience	31	8%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	44	11%
Availability of jobs	5	1%
Lack of business diversity	6	2%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	20	5%
Pollution from neighboring communities	13	3%
School District ranking and reputation	143	37%
School district taxes	77	20%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	22	6%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	28	7%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2ND RANKED VALUE**

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 2]2
Adaptability and resilience	11	3%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	59	15%
Availability of jobs	7	2%
Lack of business diversity	19	5%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	34	9%
Pollution from neighboring communities	22	6%
School District ranking and reputation	71	19%
School district taxes	76	20%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	34	9%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	49	13%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3RD RANKED VALUE**

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 3]2
Adaptability and resilience	25	7%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	61	16%
Availability of jobs	9	2%
Lack of business diversity	35	9%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	50	13%
Pollution from neighboring communities	28	8%
School District ranking and reputation	32	9%
School district taxes	46	12%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	28	8%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	59	16%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4TH RANKED VALUE**

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 4]2
Adaptability and resilience	22	6%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	48	14%
Availability of jobs	12	3%
Lack of business diversity	43	12%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	48	14%
Pollution from neighboring communities	33	9%
School District ranking and reputation	24	7%
School district taxes	27	8%

Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	32	9%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	59	17%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 5]2
Adaptability and resilience	23	7%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	37	11%
Availability of jobs	14	4%
Lack of business diversity	48	15%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	53	16%
Pollution from neighboring communities	27	8%
School District ranking and reputation	17	5%
School district taxes	30	9%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	35	11%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	44	13%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 6TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 6]2
Adaptability and resilience	26	8%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	35	11%
Availability of jobs	27	9%
Lack of business diversity	42	13%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	30	10%
Pollution from neighboring communities	28	9%
School District ranking and reputation	18	6%
School district taxes	21	7%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	43	14%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	43	14%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 7TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 7]2
Adaptability and resilience	41	14%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	29	10%
Availability of jobs	26	9%
Lack of business diversity	30	10%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	25	9%
Pollution from neighboring communities	28	10%
School District ranking and reputation	17	6%
School district taxes	20	7%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	46	16%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	24	8%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 8TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 8]2
Adaptability and resilience	34	12%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	17	6%
Availability of jobs	40	14%

Lack of business diversity	34	12%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	29	10%
Pollution from neighboring communities	41	15%
School District ranking and reputation	9	3%
School district taxes	18	6%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	36	13%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	21	8%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 9TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 9]2
Adaptability and resilience	39	14%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	7	3%
Availability of jobs	62	23%
Lack of business diversity	28	10%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	24	9%
Pollution from neighboring communities	44	16%
School District ranking and reputation	14	5%
School district taxes	16	6%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	21	8%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	19	7%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 10TH RANKED VALUE

Row Labels	Values	
	Count of Thinking ab	Count of Thinking about your concerns for living in Forest Hills please rank the following in terms of importance: [Rank 10]2
Adaptability and resilience	41	15%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	3	1%
Availability of jobs	84	31%
Lack of business diversity	39	14%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	14	5%
Pollution from neighboring communities	44	16%
School District ranking and reputation	12	4%
School district taxes	15	6%
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	13	5%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	6	2%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 1ST RANKED VALUE

School District ranking and reputation	143	37%
School district taxes	77	20%

#### 2ND RANKED VALUE

School District ranking and reputation	71	19%
School district taxes	76	20%

#### 3RD RANKED VALUE

Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	61	16%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	59	16%

#### 4TH RANKED VALUE

Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	59	17%
Aging infrastructure (roads, water supply)	48	14%
Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	48	14%

#### 5TH RANKED VALUE

Lack of commercial development (e.g shortage of land, low retail interest, existing commercial properties dated, etc.)	53	16%
Lack of business diversity	48	15%

#### 6TH RANKED VALUE

Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	43	14%
Vacant business properties on Ardmore Boulevard	43	14%
<b>7TH RANKED VALUE</b>		
Storm water management (sewer-acid mine drainage)	46	16%
Adaptability and resilience	41	14%
<b>8TH RANKED VALUE</b>		
Pollution from neighboring communities	41	15%
Availability of jobs	40	14%
<b>9TH RANKED VALUE</b>		
Availability of jobs	62	23%
Pollution from neighboring communities	44	16%
<b>10TH RANKED VALUE</b>		
Availability of jobs	84	31%
Pollution from neighboring communities	44	16%

**Recreational activities in Forest Hills are:**

Row Labels	Values Count of Recreational activities in Forest Hills are:	%
Adequate	86	22%
Excellent	95	24%
Good	208	52%
Inadequate	10	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100%</b>

**HOW DO YOU GET NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT FOREST HILLS?**

*Borough Website*

Row Labels	Values Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [Borough Website]	%
N/A	67	14%
No	235	49%
Yes	173	36%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Email*

Row Labels	Values Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [Email]	%
N/A	67	14%
No	366	77%
Yes	42	9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Newspaper*

Row Labels	Values Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [Newspaper]	%
N/A	67	14%
No	354	75%
Yes	54	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Facebook or other social media*

Row Labels	Values Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [FaceBook or other social media]	%
N/A	67	14%
No	266	56%
Yes	142	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Tree City Times*

Row Labels	Values Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [Tree City Times]	%
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N/A	67	14
No	41	9
Yes	367	77
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100</b>

*OTHER COMMENTS*

<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of How do you get news about Forest Hills? [Other]</b>	
Committee Member	1	
Community involvement conversations	1	
Edgewood Acres web site	1	
flyers/mail/phone calls	1	
friends & family	1	
Friends and Neighbors	2	
haven't lived long enough to know where to get news	1	
I thought the above questions asking about FH were pre determined and not my priority at all.	1	
Mail	1	
My wife	1	
Neighborhood blog	1	
Neighborhood group online	1	
Neighborhood websie	1	
Neighbors	5	
Neighbors and friends	1	
Neighbors, businesses	1	
Neighbors, local businesses	1	
Next Door	2	
Next Door Neighbor	1	
NextDoor	6	
Nextdoor - neighbors share news	1	
Nextdoor App	1	
Nextdoor BrynMawr Website	1	
NextDoor Neighbor application	1	
Nextdoor online group	1	
Nextdoor social networking	1	
NextDoor website	2	
nextdoor.com	2	
twitter	1	
word of mouth	2	
Z	1	
(blank)		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>46</b>	

**What would you like to see improved in Forest Hills?**

*Cultural Activities*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Cultural activities]		%[Cultural activities]
N/A		67	14%
No		247	52%
Yes		161	34%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Public Art*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Public art]		%[Public art]
N/A		67	14%
No		294	62%
Yes		114	24%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Business Opportunities*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Business opportunities]		%[Business opportunities]
N/A		67	14%
No		267	56%
Yes		141	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Restaurants*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Restaurants]		%[Restaurants]
N/A		67	14%
No		136	29%
Yes		272	57%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Shopping*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Shopping]		%[Shopping]
N/A		67	14%
No		187	39%
Yes		221	47%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Park Amenities (Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Ball fields)*

Row Labels	Values		
Row Labels	Count [Park Amenities (Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Ball fields)]		%[Park Amenities (Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Ball fields)]
N/A		67	14%
No		320	67%
Yes		88	19%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Trails*

Row Labels	Values		
Row Labels	Count [Trails]		% [Trails]
N/A		67	14%
No		269	57%
Yes		139	29%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Pedestrian connectivity*

Row Labels	Values		
Row Labels	Count [Pedestrian connectivity]		% [Pedestrian connectivity]
N/A		67	14%
No		229	48%
Yes		179	38%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Services/activities for families and youths*

Row Labels	Values		
Row Labels	Count [Services/activities for families and youths]		%[Services/activities for families and youths]
N/A		67	14%
No		306	64%
Yes		102	21%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Services/activities for senior citizens*

Row Labels	Values		
Row Labels	Count[Services/activities for senior citizens]		%[Services/activities for senior citizens]
N/A		67	14%
No		313	66%
Yes		95	20%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Entertainment activities*

Row Labels	Count [Entertainment activities]	% [Entertainment activities]
N/A	67	14%
No	263	55%
Yes	145	31%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Row Labels	Count of What would you like to see improved in Forest Hills? [Other]
A large parking lot in the "business district" of forest hills. It is not safe to park on Ardmore Blvd.	1
A more pristine look to our community ; borough-owned trees pruned more regularly; leaf collection picked up more often in the fall	1
Additional traffic safety/enforcement	1
Again, this list seems to be based on a pre-determined conception of boro goals	1
ardmore avenue cleanup	1
Better air quality!	1
Better individuals on Council	1
Better sidewalks and parking for shopping	1
Bike lanes	1
Bike lanes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1
Bring back Light-Up Night on Ardmore!	1
Bro. ordinances / housing	1
Building code enforcement	1
Codes actually enforced, rental properties policed	1
communication about events in Forest Hills and surrounding communities.	1
Concerts in F.H. Park in summer	1
Crime seems to be on the rise. Multiple car break ins and our home was also recently disturbed. Would like to see more crime prevention and added police force	1
Deer culling	1
derelict properties are becoming too prevalent	1
embrace and encourage more diversity of our community	1
Envirnmental Focus	1

Face lifts on the business bldgs located on Ardmore: Where Subway is & Sarah House.	1
Greater inclusivity. Poorer families in the area are priced out of opportunities like pool membership.	1
GROCERY STORES	1
houses better kept	1
Library Hours	1
LITTER PROBLEM	1
More frequent bus service, especially to Oakland and Mercy Hospital on weekends and holidays.	1
more reasonable pricing on amenities	1
more trees, less noise (traffic on Ardmore), less pollution (from Edgar Thompson mill)	1
New council and borough manager	1
Pickleball Courts in parks	1
pool to be kept and baby pool	1
Public Parking for Shopping	1
public schools	1
Public transit	2
public transit to/from Pittsburgh and Monroeville	1
public transportation	2
Removal of the Vol. Fire Whistle because families with small children have to move.	1
resident participation in local government	1
Road conditions and speed limit on Cascade Road	1
Roads, Vacant Atom Smasher Property	1
Safer crosswalks.	1
Safety	1
School district	1
School Taxes	1
Schools! and Public transportation	1
Side walks where there are none; neighbors nor trimming hedges. Code enforcement.	1
sidewalk along ardmore blvd	1
Speed limit enforcement	1
speeding on local roads	1

stop tearing up our curbs and replacing lights with LEDs	1
too many things to mention	1
tree trimming, code enfor.	1
Widen Ardmore Boulevard. Too hard to get out of your car to patronize businesses.	1
(blank)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57</b>

**How important are the following items to the quality of life in Forest Hills?**

*Diversity*

Row Labels	Values Count [Diversity]	%[Diversity]
Important	163	41%
Not Important	87	22%
Very Important	143	36%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Borough Services (DPW, Fire, Police)*

Row Labels	Values Count [Borough Services (DPW, Fire, Police)]	%[Borough Services (DPW, Fire, Police)]
Important	71	18%
Not Important	5	1%
Very Important	325	81%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Parking Availability in the downtown area*

Row Labels	Values Count [Parking Availability in the downtown area]	% [Parking Availability in the downtown area]
Important	190	49%
Not Important	85	22%
Very Important	114	29%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Affordable Housing*

Row Labels	Values Count [Affordable Housing]	% [Affordable Housing]
Important	199	51%
Not Important	48	12%
Very Important	144	37%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Safety and Security*

Row Labels	Values Count [Safety and Security]	% [Safety and Security]
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Important	38	10%
Not Important	7	2%
Very Important	353	89%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Recreational Resources*

Row Labels	Count [Recreational Resources]	% [Recreational Resources]
Important	239	61%
Not Important	19	5%
Very Important	137	35%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Job Opportunities*

Row Labels	Count [Job Opportunities]	% [Job Opportunities]
Important	185	47%
Not Important	159	40%
Very Important	49	12%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Transportation Options*

Row Labels	Count [Transportation Options]	% [Transportation Options]
Important	181	46%
Not Important	72	18%
Very Important	142	36%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Walkability*

Row Labels	Count [Walkability]	% [Walkability]
Important	167	42%
Not Important	35	9%
Very Important	195	49%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Shopping Convenience*

Row Labels	Count [Shopping Convenience]	% [Shopping Convenience]
Important	191	48%
Not Important	33	8%
Very Important	172	43%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>396</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Cultural Activities*

Row Labels	Count [Cultural Activities]	%[Cultural Activities]
Important	209	54%
Not Important	78	20%
Very Important	103	26%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>390</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Family and Youth Programs*

Row Labels	Count [Family and Youth Programs]	% [Family and Youth Programs]
Important	194	50%
Not Important	72	19%
Very Important	123	32%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Environmental Quality*

Row Labels	Count [Environmental Quality]	%[Environmental Quality]
Important	89	23%
Not Important	16	4%
Very Important	290	73%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*A thriving, walkable downtown area*

Row Labels	Count [A thriving, walkable downtown area]	% [A thriving, walkable downtown area]
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Important	131	33%
Not Important	22	6%
Very Important	241	61%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Transportation Network-Roads, Buses*

Row Labels	Count [Transportation Network-Roads, Buses]	%[Transportation Network-Roads, Buses]
Important	174	44%
Not Important	33	8%
Very Important	187	47%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Parking Availability in the downtown area*

Row Labels	Count [Parking Availability in the downtown area]	% [Parking Availability in the downtown area]
Important	198	50%
Not Important	65	16%
Very Important	131	33%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Homes, Neighborhoods*

Row Labels	Count [Homes, Neighborhoods]	% [Homes, Neighborhoods]
Important	102	26%
Not Important	11	3%
Very Important	280	71%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Parks (Access to green spaces)*

Row Labels	Count [Parks (Access to green spaces)]	% [Parks (Access to green spaces)]
Important	128	33%
Not Important	13	3%
Very Important	252	64%
(blank)		0%

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Business Mix*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Business Mix]	% [Business Mix]	

Important	228	58%	
Not Important	27	7%	
Very Important	137	35%	
(blank)		0%	

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Affordability of Housing*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Affordability of Housing]	% [Affordability of Housing]	

Important	187	48%	
Not Important	47	12%	
Very Important	157	40%	
(blank)		0%	

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Availability of Cultural Activities*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Availability of Cultural Activities]	% [Availability of Cultural Activities]	

Important	205	53%	
Not Important	81	21%	
Very Important	98	26%	
(blank)		0%	

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Sustainability and Energy Efficiency*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Sustainability and Energy Efficiency]	% [Sustainability and Energy Efficiency]	

Important	156	40%	
Not Important	39	10%	
Very Important	194	50%	
(blank)		0%	

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>
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*Access to Technology*

Row Labels	Values		
	Count [Access to Technology]	% [Access to Technology]	

Important	198	51%
Not Important	49	13%
Very Important	140	36%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Historical Preservation*

Row Labels	Count [Historical Preservation]	% [Historical Preservation]
Important	206	52%
Not Important	56	14%
Very Important	131	33%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Stormwater Management*

Row Labels	Count [Stormwater Management]	% [Stormwater Management]
Important	141	36%
Not Important	16	4%
Very Important	235	60%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Safe Areas for Walking and Bicycling Throughout the Borough*

Row Labels	Count [Safe Areas for Walking and Bicycling Throughout the Borough]	%[Safe Areas for Walking and Bicycling Throughout the Borough]
Important	123	31%
Not Important	22	6%
Very Important	249	63%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Job Creation*

Row Labels	Count [Job Creation]	% [Job Creation]
Important	205	53%
Not Important	119	31%
Very Important	66	17%
(blank)		0%



## Would you encourage or discourage the following LAND USES in the Borough?

### *Residential – Single-Family Homes*

Values		
Row Labels	Count of [Residential – Single-Family Homes]	% [Residential – Single-Family Homes]
Discourage	8	2%
Encourage	349	88%
No Opinion (blank)	40	10%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Residential – Multi-Family Units*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Residential – Multi-Family Units]	% [Residential – Multi-Family Units]
Discourage	180	46%
Encourage	136	35%
No Opinion (blank)	76	19%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Senior/Assisted Living Units*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Senior/Assisted Living Units]	% [Senior/Assisted Living Units]
Discourage	50	13%
Encourage	245	62%
No Opinion (blank)	99	25%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Retail Development*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Retail Development]	% [Retail Development]
Discourage	24	6%
Encourage	335	85%
No Opinion (blank)	36	9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Public Outdoor Recreation*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Public Outdoor Recreation]	% [Public Outdoor Recreation]
Discourage	10	3%
Encourage	336	86%
No Opinion (blank)	43	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Storage Facilities*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Storage Facilities]	% [Storage Facilities]
Discourage	296	76%
Encourage	14	4%
No Opinion (blank)	81	21%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Bed & Breakfast, Motels/Hotels, etc.*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Bed & Breakfast, Motels/Hotels, etc.]	% [Bed & Breakfast, Motels/Hotels, etc.]
Discourage	147	37%
Encourage	163	41%
No Opinion (blank)	85	22%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Convenience Stores*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Convenience Stores]	% [Convenience Stores]
Discourage	205	52%
Encourage	98	25%
No Opinion (blank)	92	23%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Casual Dining Restaurants*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Casual Dining Restaurants]	% [Casual Dining Restaurants]

Discourage	13	3%
Encourage	364	92%
No Opinion	18	5%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Fast Food and Take-Out Restaurants*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Fast Food and Take-Out Restaurants]	% [Fast Food and Take-Out Restaurants]
Discourage	194	49%
Encourage	132	34%
No Opinion	68	17%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Professional Office Park (medical, legal, technology)*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Professional Office Park (medical, legal, technology)]	% [Professional Office Park (medical, legal, technology)]
Discourage	46	12%
Encourage	253	64%
No Opinion	94	24%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Community solar installations*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Community solar installations]	% [Community solar installations]
Discourage	36	9%
Encourage	274	70%
No Opinion	83	21%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Service Business' (Barber, dry cleaner, hardware, etc.)*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Service Business' (Barber, dry cleaner, hardware, etc.)]	% [Service Business' (Barber, dry cleaner, hardware, etc.)]
Discourage	9	2%
Encourage	358	90%

No Opinion (blank)	29	7%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Home-based Business'*

Row Labels	Count [Home-based Business']	% [Home-based Business']	
Discourage	35	9%	
Encourage	210	54%	
No Opinion (blank)	144	37%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Green building construction*

Row Labels	Count ["Green" building construction]	% ["Green" building construction]	
Discourage	21	5%	
Encourage	292	74%	
No Opinion (blank)	79	20%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Sidewalks*

Row Labels	Count [Sidewalks]	% [Sidewalks]	
Discourage	10	3%	
Encourage	345	87%	
No Opinion (blank)	42	11%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Bike paths*

Row Labels	Count [Bike paths]	% [Bike paths]	
Discourage	36	9%	
Encourage	290	74%	
No Opinion (blank)	68	17%	0%

**Grand Total**

**394**

**100%**

The world's first industrial atom smasher was built and placed in operation by Westinghouse at their Forest Hills site in 1938. No longer in use, the lightbulb-shaped shell stood as a landmark of man's victory over the atom. Once a symbol of pride for Forest Hills, today this shell lies abandoned on the ground of that former site. What would you like to see happen with the Westinghouse Atom Smasher?

Row Labels	Values Count	%
No Opinion	66	17%
Other	36	9%
Restoration and transfer to a Community Center Site	159	40%
Restoration and transfer to an Educational Center	138	35%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100%</b>

OTHER COMMENTS

At Westinghouse expense moved to community destination

Definitely Restoration. Location = Don't know yet.

Do not spend resources.

Don't waste money on it.

Donate to Heinz History Center  
educational and community

Get rid of the balloon, clean out the rubble and turn the property into a green space or recreation area

I understand its importance in the region's history but also think it's ugly, not something you'd want to display anywhere.

I would like to see Westinghouse take ownership of the restoration.

I'd be equally happy with restoration and transfer to an educational center or a community center site.

If it could be done cost effectively, restore and mover to either educational or community center

If we can use that land you should restore it and create a museum/educational center for young engineers.

It seems to be a natural for the Heinz History Center. Failing that, another education center.

Keep it as is. its a wonderful photography spot.

List this & the radio station on the arches

No opinion, as long as someone else is paying for it redeveloped as a park

restoration and conversion as part of an in-town educational center

Restoration and develop current location (if that is possible)

Restoration and educational center on site

Restoration and mix of education, community, coworking and innovation space

Restoration and museum on site.

Restoration and Transfer to an Educational Center OR

Community Center Site. But, restored to educate visitors and residents of the very important role Forest Hills, Westinghouse and the surrounding Communities played in history that changed the world, the birth of the Atomic Age! The KDKA/Westinghouse museum should also be incorporated into the Site. The World's first radio station began right here. We should be very proud of all of this local history!

Restoration and transfer to the Rec center by the boro building

restoration on site

restore in place, develop around it

Restored for educational and community use (not mutually exclusive!). STEM education and community history/heritage could all be displayed and presented together.

save it w/o using tax money. Westinghouse won't help pay for it?

scrap

Scrap It

Since its privately owned, we shouldn't waste the tax dollars

sold and taken away so that the land it is presently on can be developed in some way

think the space could be developed to be used for both educational and community space for rentals.

To municipal building but don't spend too much on restoration.

Trash

within a park

## Do you support the following objectives?

*Promote greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental issues.*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Promote greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental issues.]	% [Promote greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental issues.]
Agree	342	88
Disagree	48	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>100</b>

*Adopt strong stormwater management plan*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Adopt strong stormwater management plans]	% [Adopt strong stormwater management plans]
Agree	362	94
Disagree	25	6
(blank)		0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100</b>

*Encourage preservation and conservation of open space and wildlife habitat*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Encourage preservation and conservation of open space and wildlife habitat]	% [Encourage preservation and conservation of open space and wildlife habitat]
Agree	355	92
Disagree	29	8
(blank)		0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

*Encourage landscaping requirements in municipal ordinances for land development (i.e. buffers, screening and number of trees/ building square footage).*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Encourage landscaping requirements in municipal ordinances for land development (i.e. buffers, screening and number of trees/ building square footage).]	% [Encourage landscaping requirements in municipal ordinances for land development (i.e. buffers, screening and number of trees/ building square footage).]
Agree	327	85
Disagree	59	15
(blank)		0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>100</b>

*Providing more community events*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Providing more community events]	% [Providing more community events]
Agree	311	83
Disagree	64	17
(blank)		0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100</b>

*Encourage new businesses in our business district*

Values		
Row Labels	Count [Encourage new businesses in our business district]	% [Encourage new businesses in our business district]
Agree	372	97
Disagree	13	3
(blank)		0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100</b>

*Support Public Art*

Values

Row Labels	Count [Support Public Art]	% [Support Public Art]
Agree	296	78
Disagree (blank)	82	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

## Do you find the following public services ADEQUATE in Forest Hills?

### *Police*

Row Labels	Count of [Police]	% [Police]
Don't Know	33	8%
No	12	3%
Yes	353	89%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Fire*

Row Labels	Count [Fire]	% [Fire]
Don't Know	66	17%
No	4	1%
Yes	329	82%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Ambulance*

Row Labels	Count [Ambulance]	% [Ambulance]
Don't Know	87	22%
No	4	1%
Yes	308	77%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Road Maintenance*

Row Labels	Count [Road Maintenance]	% [Road Maintenance]
Don't Know	15	4%
No	112	28%
Yes	271	68%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Snow Removal*

	Values	
Row Labels	Count [Snow Removal]	% [Snow Removal]
Don't Know	11	3%
No	11	3%
Yes	376	94%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Trash Collection*

	Values	
Row Labels	Count [Trash Collection]	% [Trash Collection]
Don't Know	3	1%
No	11	3%
Yes	384	96%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Recycling*

	Values	
Row Labels	Count [Recycling]	% [Recycling]
Don't Know	10	3%
No	82	21%
Yes	306	77%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Public Library*

	Values	
Row Labels	Count [Public Library]	% [Public Library]
Don't Know	110	28%
No	44	11%
Yes	244	61%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Storm Water Management*

	Values	
Row Labels	Count [Storm Water Management]	% [Storm Water Management]

Don't Know	166	42%
No	85	21%
Yes	146	37%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>

Zoning

Row Labels	Count [Zoning]	% [Zoning]
Don't Know	231	58%
No	42	11%
Yes	123	31%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>100%</b>

Open Government

Row Labels	Count [Open Government]	% [Open Government]
Don't Know	177	45%
No	51	13%
Yes	165	42%
(blank)		0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Do you use public transportation?

Row Labels	Values Count (PAT)?	%(PAT)
N/A	78	16%
No	296	62%
Yes	101	21%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Do you use the Flivver?

Row Labels	Values Count	% Do you use the Flivver?
N/A	77	16%
No	381	80%
Yes	17	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Do you use Uber, Lyft or ZIP Car?

Row Labels	Values Count	% Do you use Uber, Lyft or ZIP Car?
N/A	80	17%
No	258	54%
Yes	137	29%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Would you like to see increased transportation options in the area?

Row Labels	Values Count	% Would you like to see increased transportation options in the area?
N/A	82	17%
No	131	28%
Yes	262	55%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Is there anything else you feel is important that we didn't ask? Please share your comments, concerns, suggestions, etc.**

1. Develop a short term to mid range plan to REPLACE the existing sewage system and END the ongoing Sewage Penalty scam. Perhaps fund this with a bond issue. The current quarterly penalties are outrageous and have been going on and on with no end in site. I don't think the original intent was for it last forever, be a patronage fund, or fund the general budget.
2. Coordinate with the other municipalities in the school district to pressure the School Board to Reduce Costs with out impacting education quality. If they continue operating as they have been anything Forest Hills does to try and improve it's community will be a waste of money.
3. Develop a FORMAL short and mid term plan to complete the road paving program. The dedicated 1 mil property tax was initiated to be spent "ONLY on paving roads" in the boro and when completed it would "go away" Its been collected for years and many roads have not been touched while some have been done several times. Rumor has it the funds last year were not used for boro roads at all???
4. Perhaps look at redoing the zoning districts in the boro to adhere more to residential (single family) and commercial (business and professional services).

1. Thank you very much for putting together this detailed survey. As a person who has lived here for a very short period of time, one can easily get a sense of what is important to the Planning Commission by assessing the questions asked and the possible answers that were listed. Thank you.

2. Walkability...would be wonderful.

3. A true coffee shop (DD does not count), perhaps along Ardmore Blvd., would be really, really great.

A lot of these are not yes/no questions/topics but the survey was set up so that I was forced to choose the answer that was closest, but not always close enough, to how I feel.

**Activities for young children are important**

Although acknowledging the impracticality of renovating the old municipal building, I think it was a mistake for the Forest Hills police dept to move to the fringe edge of the Forest Hills community, removed from the central business district and the letter avenues.

I believe there is a great opportunity for more family-friendly activities in our area, as home sales by retirees has led to increasing numbers of families with small children moving into our community. Movies in the Park would be great, as would weekly playgroups at the pool lodge or other location,

are there any opportunities to partner with Hosanna House's Sherwood location, accessible via the Bryn Mawr section of FH?

Continue the Tree-City Times, which is necessary for communications even in this digital age

Thanks for your efforts!

An all purpose center would be nice for young, old and in between. With activities that brings the community together. Get some of the lottery money for the senior part. Get grants for the educational piece. Get some big company to sponsor it such as goggle. Comcast so forth

Annual surveys of this sort to determine the priorities of Forest Hills residents.

As a new resident of Forest Hills, I've been very happy to call the community my home over the last year. However, when looking for housing last summer (2017), Forest Hills was an unknown entity. My husband and I were hoping to move to the East End neighborhoods of Squirrel Hill or Regent Square but were completely priced-out due to the tech boom. Forest Hills offered some beautiful and unique homes at affordable prices for first-time home-buyers like ourselves. I suspect that many people in the 25-35 age range want to buy homes and want to live in walkable, reasonably dense neighborhoods in Pittsburgh but are finding themselves priced-out due to the over-development of the Eastern neighborhoods. I would hate to see Forest Hills jump on the "luxury condo" bandwagon, but I do think there is an opportunity here not to be missed. Creating a more accessible community (better sidewalks, easier means to walk/bike from Point A to Point B and the parks), supporting the businesses already in place, and attracting unique, independent businesses, and touting and developing the terrific resources of wooded plots, parks, affordable housing, and community engagement that Forest Hills has to offer could be highly attractive to a younger population of families and young professionals. (I know quite a few people who travel to Forest Hills for the pool and for the dog park--an especially great addition!; building on these amenities is key.) I'm happy in Forest Hills, but I think you have to leave the neighborhood to do a lot of things--shopping, eating out, better, more extensive, park experiences, cultural events. When I think about where we'll live in the next 8-10 years, I do often wonder if we'll stay in Forest Hills. I would like to stay and help the community grow into a place with resources that are accessible to a variety of people from diverse backgrounds.

The Farmers' Market is terrific. I really appreciate this service and hope it continues. I also appreciate the services available to senior citizens of the community. Though I'm not as familiar with these, I do see that it makes a big difference to the folks I've met in my neighborhood. I like that Forest Hills is a place where you can meet people who have stayed in the community for 30-40 years. I hope that supporting these people to age in place or to have quality housing and options will continue. I am willing to give that my financial support. Finally, I would like to see community brainstorming to support the Woodland Hills district. Losing children to violence is awful, and many people refuse to move to this community because of the school district. There should be a way to support the teachers and students in place.

As a parent of young children I would like to see more events for kids - movies in the park would be awesome.

As the utility companies unilaterally decide which trees to remove, I would take steps to stop this practice because it destroys property values and looks really bad

Before we plan on spending more of the residents hard earned money to beautifying our neighborhood, lets deal with big problems we have right now that are giving our community a bad rep. and lets prevent it from declining as rapidly as it has been

Drive down the alley behind Sumner and look at the property of delinquent land owners. They are plentiful. It never used to be like this Grown- over yards, Garbage everywhere and so many pot holes with rebar showing that it will surely puncture your car tire.

2 urgent concerns are 131 sumner and 133 sumner. as far as property maintenance

131 is an apartment building that is not maintained even semi regularly by the landlord. The garage is delapidated and weeds growing out into the allry and fill the yard and in between the neighboring garage

133 is downright DEPLORABLE. IT HAS BEEN FALLING APART OVER 10 YEARS with no intervention by the boro to get it cleaned up.

The front porch is loaded with animal cages old pillows and blankets that make good breeding grounds for rodents . There are blankets garbage, and a smell so putred of cat urine when you walk by, it makes you sick.We cant even take an evening walk past it.

On garbage day there is generally 10-15 bags of garbage( sometimes MORE THAN THAT) obviously filled with animal litter as garbage men cannot even lift them. The smell will gag you.

The house is literally falling apart with holes in back porch roof that houses hundreds of birds and, has weeds growing up and over all the back windows. Shrubs and bushes are never cut It is an eyesore

The garage is a fire hazard. It is filled to the roof with junk, newspaper, and sometimes gasoline containers. There are holes in roof and broken windows and trrees and weeds growing out of it. extending into the alley It gets worse every day. It needs torn down. There are families of ground hogs skunks and god knows what other animals have made their home in it.

Being a senior citizen, I am very mad/unhappy with the school taxes since I always hear how the children can't even read. Plus, I have never had any children myself, why should I continue to pay school taxes when I am trying to live on Social Security. Also, I was more than upset when I saw the Propel School in the former Builder's Square, we didn't even have a chance to vote on this, as usual. Forest Hills is not the town I originally moved into and I know of people who moved out because of the taxes. Also, not happy that the new building project on Ardmore is going to be more people not contributing to our taxes. I wish I could move to another affordable area where the taxes are not this high.

Better crosswalks on Greensburg pike with fresh paint is a must.

Borough council should be held accountable for the criminal acts committed by council members, including but not limited to possible pay off from Dunkin Donuts and constant harassment to the public safety departments. Borough manager should be fired for lack of concern for the well being of the borough. Time for a leadership change in all paid borough positions (manager, down foreman, and police chief). The before listed are just pawns to a councilman.

By order of importance -

1. There should have been mention of the number and condition of unoccupied residences. These are an eyesore and there is no sign that our local government understands the problem to holding home values and safety. This problem is increasingly on the rise.
2. FH road maintenance has been poor at best. The quality of materials applied and the techniques used are sub-par. This cost saving is spending good money after bad spending. The roads don't last and the first impressions are of an impoverished community. Stop the program to put tar on gaping holes! - hideous.
3. Zoning enforcement of most egregious violations doesn't happen. Although a neighbor who has a nicely maintained home was cited for sidewalk cracks. A block away is a sidewalk that has deteriorated to pebbles. Enforcement needs to be done and it needs to be equally applied - hold everyone accountable.

<p>by tearing out our curbs and replacing with sloped asphalt you are widening the cross section of our streets and encouraging people to drive faster. They look horrible and are already failing. The asphalt product used or maybe the contractors do a bad job and the new streets begin to fail in a few years. Study after study shows that LED streetlights, while saving money, have negative impacts on the quality of life and sleep habits of nearby people. It's not adequate to just replace the fixtures with LED lights because the spacing was made for the old sodium lights. Greensburg Pike is a perfect example - it used to be very well lit the entire stretch and now you have white spotlights every 50 feet with darkness in between. Decision after decision is bad. There is a lack of thought and planning with respect to all development. DUNKIN DONUTS GOOD - who cares about traffic impacts or the way it looks in what should be a dense district. I can't wait for you to tear down the old borough building and replace it with parking against the sidewalk with a set back. Who the hell encourages a set back on a commercial street?! Bright lit LED signage at the Bistro. So much work went into encouraging COST to make the former Eckerd building fit in with the borough with nice brick and trim compared to other freestanding Eckerd's built at the time and you allowed it to be painted grey - that's asinine and</p>
<p>Can we improvement for people waiting the bus in winter for build or fix with heater or with door and people they can stay warm and fix all the pothole</p>
<p>Community diversity</p>
<p>consideration of lowering taxes for boro and school</p>
<p>Could the library and the business office be on the same schedule???</p>
<p>I would like to have the opportunity to hear about decisions being made before they are voted on by council. How can they make decisions without input from fellow citizens???</p>
<p>Council needs to be more open to broader public input. As it is, they typically fail to listen to people, because the long standing majority has a 'my way or the highway' approach to governance. Be polite and listen to everyone.</p>
<p>Current policy of removing concrete curbs when repaving roads should be discontinued. Ramped asphalt curbs narrow the street between the curbs and by removing the physical barrier a concrete curb provides, encourages parking on sidewalks which were never designed to support the weight of vehicles. There should be a prohibition of cats running at large.</p>
<p>Did not as questions related to tax increases. I am not willing to support any tax increase.</p>
<p>Don't spend more than \$1,000,000 without voter approval. This is a small town.</p>
<p>Don't connect responses supporting open space with a desire to "protect" all wildlife. There are too many deer in the area. This is going to lead to problems with Lyme disease and destruction of plantings. The deer are not endangered species, some form of management is needed.</p>
<p>Easier access to inner eastern areas - shadyside, east liberty, bloomfield, oakland - via public transportation or safe bike trails, lite rail option up the center of ardmore blvd would be so welcome. Right now I drive to Swissvale or Hamet station to catch P1 into town. There are few safe parking options there if you arrive after 7:30ish in the morning.</p>
<p>Pool and tennis are wonderful community additions, can we extend pool time in the evenings, somehow, for people that have to work every day? another week in Sept would also be great.</p>
<p>East side Boro. failing fast maintenance of housing and Alleys</p>
<p>Encourage what can be done to improve the image of the Woodland Hills' school districts' image. This is a detriment to young families moving in to Forest Hills.</p>
<p>Enforce the speed limits on Greensburg pike</p>

Examine Tax structure. The income tax is low, but doesn't include many services - emergency services tax, garbage collection, etc. Since these taxes are per household, lower income residents pay a higher effective tax rate than higher income residents. In addition, residents must pay multiple tax bills rather than simply pay everything through one slightly higher income tax. Obviously I cannot quote exact figures, but I suspect that a 1.25 - 1.5% income tax rate could effectively eliminate the need to nickle and dime us for numerous other charges. Otherwise, love it here.

For over 40 years Forest Hills has been my home. Have always appreciated the many amenities it offers. I would hope that in the future the Borough will build on what already exists and make Forest Hills an even more desirable place to live. I would like to see a major improvement in our school district so that young families do not find it necessary to move when their children reach school age.

Forest Hills has many things going for it, but it could do better (like any community). It would be such a game changer to have more businesses in and around town, especially on Ardmore Blvd! A coffee shop, a sandwich shop, clothing or paper stores, etc. Anything! Also, the air and water pollution/stormwater management is CRITICAL. Often, my family is unable to sleep, go outside, have windows open or run our AC because of the terrible toxic air and odor. This is a problem and makes living in Forest Hills long-term unsustainable.

Someday it would be incredible if there was a rapid transit train connecting the suburbs of Pittsburgh outside of just the south hills communities. This would make Forest Hills more liveable and more desireable, especially for anyone who works on the other side of the tunnels.

Forest Hills is a great place to live, my answers reflect my current situation, all adult children. When my children were younger, we enjoyed the pool and park. We stopped joining the pool when the price increased. I do not shop Forest Hills except for Aldi. There is no parking for the downtown area and nothing worth seeing. The big arches announcing Forest Hills business center could be attractive, but the signs on them are hideous and embarrassing. It is my understanding that the arches had to be placed where they currently are, which only emphasizes how small and crummy the downtown is. It would be much better to place them at the beginning and end of the Borough. The new borough building is lovely, I use the library on a weekly basis.

Home owners seem to carry the heaviest burden for school taxes. Is there any way to shift a small percentage to other entities like larger corporations who do business in the community like Comcast and Verizon without placing too much on smaller businesses?

Homeowners are letting the outside of their homes and front yard become an eyesore. We are not a depressed community and this should not be allowed. In addition landlords need to better maintain their properties.

House in my neighborhood is empty.. the swimming pool in backyard has had sragnant water in it for two years. Pool was removed two months ago but yard is full of half torn down deck, six foot high weeds and sand along with patio stacked with outdoor furniture. There should be enforceable city codes to prevent such health hazards and eyesores.

I am a little concerned about playground maintenance. The rigging for the swingsets are wearing out pretty significantly (stretched and worn chain, distended shackles), and the rust on some of the playground structures are a little concerning.

I am concerned about increasing crime coming in from adjacent neighborhoods and from those traveling Route 30. It is important to keep this a safe community and enforce existing laws. The survey is a great idea.

I am concerned at the speed that cars travel on Ardmore Blvd... and have for years. I see police stopping speeding cars on other roads in FH and Churchill police are often in the parking lot of the cemetery on the pike stopping speeders. I do not see cops stopping the many trucks and cars on Ardmore to keep residents safe an pulling out on to Ardmore. Trying to pull out of Newport Rd onto Ardmore Blvd is dangerous... Has been for the 20+ years I have lived in FH... Large commercial Trucks are some of the largest violators however, cars act like there is not a speed limit and Ardmore is an extension of the expressway. Is there any reason why trucks and cars are not stopped? I actually enjoyed 30 being closed for a few months... I appreciate our Police staff and think they do a great job. Please work with the state or whoever to do more to keep Ardmore safe. I would even like to see more lights if that is what needs to be done to slow down the traffic.

I am glad to see that the lack of business in the downtown area is recognized in this survey. There is much potential for the downtown area of Forest Hills. There is a lack of parking however. A metered public lot may help and the business taxes are quite high. However, our borough does a tremendous job of using the tax dollars generated to provide programs for residents. I do not think any other borough can compare to our programs, recreation, public works, police, etc. I am glad that the pool was renovated last year, however I wish that it would not be looked at through the lens of a business operation (similar to how the US Gov views the post office), rather an asset that entices and incentives people to move to our community. The sponsorship program for pool passes did the total opposite of that. Lastly, as far as environmental practices go, I believe they are important but not something that should be forced upon citizens, maybe a subsidization approach would be best for that.

I am not very impressed with the options provided at the Forest Hills Pool. Previously, evening hours and an evening membership was provided at reduced cost. No floaties or child toys are allowed. There are not many picnic tables and no beach chairs. Other pools I have attended provided these amenities, resulting in a great experience. It seems like the status quo rules here, and there is little incentive to innovate or cater to residents' desires. I know several families have moved to alternate pools (Blackridge, primarily).

I also think the pool might see increased attendance and support if it were further subsidized by the Borough budget (taxes) and membership dues reduced.

I am worried about a slow exodus and degradation of our borough neighborhoods as a result of high school taxes

I believe Forest Hills is letting the "rental district" that are between Marion and Sumner is getting decimated by the Forest Hills Volunteer Claxon which is a hold over from the past. I have lost several tenants with small children that would love to have stayed in the Borough, were it not for this annoyance. Further, the school district is challenged. This is a deterrent for young families to move from renting to home ownership within the community. There is a very real sense that the Forest Hills is at a turning point.

I believe one of the best qualities of living in Forest Hills is the recreation center. It is important to keep the pool and tennis courts clean and updated as a way to attract and keep families. Also, I think those who are a part of our local government should be working closely with the Woodland Hills School District to problem solve ways to improve the district and its image.

I believe the boro needs to promote a thriving business district, not only for it current residents, but also for the 1000's of car that travel thru Forest Hills daily. One way would be to encourage/promote/help all business buildings have a facelift. It does NOT need to center around a particular type of theme or motif. But, there are just too many buildings/business on Ardmore Blvd that look old, run-down, blighted, and not to mention empty. Driving thru Forest Hills would all I would want to do. There is nothing visually, that would want to make me stop and check out our businesses (by type of business or asthetically).

I can't think of anything. The survey was very thorough.

I do not use PAT transportation because it doesn't have enough reliability or availability. But I would love to use much improved public transport.

I feel like our downtown area is being wasted. I would like to see it become more of a destination like neighboring Regent Square. With a few restaurants, a coffee shop. Vince had a great coffee shop but the rest of downtown wasn't sustainable. I feel we need a few more liquor licenses to draw in interest.

I feel that efforts should be made to highlight the Woodland Hills School District in a more positive light. The negative media coverage effects the borough because families don't want to move here. More focus should be put on the positive things that happen there. Not just football!!!

I HATE SEEING LITTER ON THE STREETS AND I WOULD LIKE MORE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS. I SEE PORCHES ON AVENUE A THAT ARE POLLUTED ESP IN THE BACK OR OR SIDES OF THE HOMES. THEY LET THE ALLEY GO AS NOT IMPORTANT BUT THEY MATTER AND IT BRINGS DOWN PROPERTY VALUES. I DO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF FOREST HILLS AS I GREW UP IN WILKINSBURG AND SAW WHAT HAPPENED THERE. GOOD LUCK! OH, THE SWIMMING POOL MAKES FOREST HILLS A GREAT PLACE.

I have lived in Forest Hills 47 years and have been blessed to be able to raise my children here. I am now a senior and find it hard to come up with the money needed to pay the school taxes. I honestly don't know how many students come from homes that pay taxes, but I think something should be done to even out the responsibility. I don't know who handles such issues, but I would like to see a bit more balance in who pays school taxes.

I have lived in Forest Hills for 36 years. I raised my children and enjoyed the recreational facilities and functions. My one and only fear is the school district and it's taxes. Woodland Hills school district reputation needs to be monumentally improved. I thought I would spend the rest of my life in the borough but we are seriously considering moving out because of the School District and it's tax base. It is seriously impeding anyone from considering moving into the neighborhood. Cannot justify the taxes for the quality of service.

I love Ardmore Boulevard and the efforts by the folks who do the summer plantings in the divider. However, I think we should do more as a borough (in terms of funding) some "wow factor" garden plantings that could be the envy of Pittsburgh! I envision an ever-changing display of seasonal flowers amid colorful bushes and shrubs and perhaps some grasses. Wouldn't it be great to have FH become a Spring/Summer destination for garden lovers who could come to patronize some new cute shops and restaurants downtown, visit the park, etc? Other ideas: free outdoor movies (in the park?). Can alternate between kids movie nights and grown-up movie nights. Please no more chain fast food restaurants! In fact I wish we didn't have a Taco Bell or a Dunkin' Donuts at all- or if we do have to have them, I wish they could blend in more with the older buildings on the Boulevard. Please no parking garages- unless the look of the building blends in with the surrounding landscape. And please no expensive parking lots- if we need to create more parking spaces please ensure that rates are nominal and not prohibitive.

I have a concern about speeders on Ardmore Boulevard. I think alot more should be done about monitoring this road and issuing citations. Ditto for Greensburg Pike.

Love the new Borough Building and Library. Thank you for that wonderful edifice. I love living here in FH and although I am currently only a renter, I would absolutely love to purchase a home here if my situation allows for it into the future. I would love to have a walkable downtown area to stroll and shop and to continue seeing families with young

I miss news publications like the Progress to circulate the borough news and events.

Would appreciate longer library hours.

Would NOT want Forest Hills to merge with another community for any reason. I have appreciated the time that I have lived here for 60 years, because it has been a good fit for my life. Churches have contributed much to our caring more for one another, no matter what our faith. Thank you for a place that is so special.

I really don't like the "Forest Hills" signs on Ardmore Blvd. I think that they are not at all attractive.

I really like this survey and the invites to future public meetings. It sounds like many of the initiatives that you are considering align with my values and concerns. Something that is not on here but may be worth consideration, especially if younger families move to the area is a daycare or preschool. I am especially interested in making forest hills more accessible by bike. I love the new building!! Also, I appreciate that diversity is in your priorities. I really like the economic and racial diversity in Forest Hills (or at least on my street). I think it would be worthwhile to think about what are things in this neighborhood that have helped and hindered that, and how to maintain the things that foster that. I think that it is especially important to see how Forest Hills can take catalytic measures to have a community centered police force and community centered schools. I wonder if some community and cultural events could be centered around racial unity and multiculturalism.

I SEE THE BORO GOING DOWN HILL, TOO MANY SECTION 8 & HUD HOUSING, TAXES ARE TOO HIGH IN THIS BORO, COUNCIL & PUBLIC OFFICIALS DON'T SEEM TO CARE WHAT THE RESIDENTS THINK OF DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. THIS ISN'T A COMMUNITY OF RICH PEOPLE & THEY SEEM TO WANT IT TO STAND OUT LIKE THAT. PEOPLE HERE ARE STRUGGLING TO PAY TAXES & SEWAGE BILLS ALONE, MAYBE AT ONE TIME IT WAS UPPER SCALE BUT NOT ANYMORE.

I think boro trees should be better maintained . they need to be pruned more often

I think it is important to focus on bringing in more young families. Forest Hills has a lot to offer and having young families will help the community stay vibrant. I would sincerely appreciate more activities for kids and a way to connect neighbors to build community. Events like movies in the park or a movie night at the pool, stroller strides classes, events around holidays (Halloween parade, Easter Egg Hunt, etc). I love the Tree City Times and read it diligently every time it comes out cover to cover but it would be great to have more regular communication.

I think it would be really great to have sidewalks the whole way down Ardmore to increase foot traffic to the business district and parks for all Forest Hillians. Also, we'd love to see every week recycling back in Forest Hills. Also, it would be great to have resources/information/help (?) with restoring older homes in the area.

We hate to be any bit critical because We LOVE FOREST HILLS! Keep up the great work!

I think most of it is covered well here. I think maybe asking about the borough services and staff could have been included because they all do a great job of answering questions, getting you what you need etc.. I think the committee knows the issues with lack of businesses, way too high school taxes and I really am happy to see that biking/walking trails and walkable areas are included here. It is tough to go for a run or bike ride in the borough because of ardmore traffic. I do think that recycling needs to be looked into more as often I leave items out that are recyclable and they end up getting put back into my regular garbage by the recycling people.

I think our police force is a wonderful asset to the community. I was very impressed by how calmly and professionally they handled protests in our neighborhood on the parkway. I hope, in light of many problems elsewhere, council could find room in its budget de-escalation training for officers, so they can continue providing the high level of service to everyone in our community.

I would also love if we could recycle #5 plastics and if the neighborhood was more walkable. Im so glad to see business development and walkability are being considered.

I think overall Forest Hills is a great place to live. I think what makes it nice is what has worked in the past with the community , good people and old businesses like Drews restaurant etc. I believe the Forest Hills Police force is fantastic and what keeps the community safe and I trust them to do so. I believe what holds us down is being a part of the Woodland Hills school district. I hope something changes with the district soon because I believe it keeps folks out of the community that have children that refuse to send there children to Woodland Hills also it is embarrassing to hear what is going on there and to know our community is part of it. My suggestion is to keep the police force do not make any cuts. Paving the roads would be another suggestion as well as keeping out crime and 24 hour gas stations.

I think safety and walkabilty are the number one important things for those of us raising children in Forest Hills.

I think that Forest Hills needs to sell itself more. We have many things such as the Farmers Market, two garden clubs and the dog park that might be advertised somehow as leading to a more positive lifestyle if people wanted to come here to live and buy homes.

I also suggest that we begin to talk about a deer culling program. There are many residents that feed deer which is leading to an overrun of these animals. This creates health and environmental issues. For instance, I have been bitten twice by ticks in 2018. Additionally, deer have been eating plants that were placed to aid in the propagation of the endangered bee and butterfly population. They also use my property as a bathroom which is disgusting.

I think that pool membership needs to be opened up to other communities. Sponsoring families is a good start but there are more families that would use the if membership was not restricted to sponsorship.

I think there should be an effort to help residents become acquainted or know something about the candidates that run for office

I think we might show more appreciation for our police department as their job is both difficult and dangerous.

I think we need more events in Forest Hills. I know we had had three free concerts that went down to on. To help pay for concerts, I would recommend raffles and selling of food items. Even collection goodwill offerings.

Also, bring in more business. Love Aldis and Chinese restaurant, but a big ugly storefront sits empty between the two.

One thing, we have the best snow removal in the local area. I don't know how they do it.

I was very disappointed with the net result on the dog park...the space was not well designed with equal spaces for "large and small" dogs resulting an area too small for effectively running large dogs. The restrictions on dogs elsewhere in the park is really a shame for those of us without children as we are denied our primary benefit for a public park paid for with our tax dollars as well.

I would like Forest Hills to have a climate action plan and sign onto the Paris agreement, have outdoor air quality monitoring and water testing, and be an environmental leader. I would like Forest Hills to be a Live Well Allegheny community and be involved with Sustainable Pittsburgh. I would like to see more events aimed at 20 and 30 somethings. Having an arts and crafts fair with food trucks would be great. The Farmers Market is great. Thank you for this survey!

I would like to say that we've bragged about the snow removal in Forest Hills for years. We've also had great support from the Police Department in minor issues that have come up over the years. Forest Hills is a wonderful community, and we're happy to live here.

I would like to see our borough pressure Port Authority for better, more frequent and less crowded transportation in Forest Hills, especially on weekends and holidays. Many of our residents are employed by UPMC, Pitt, CMU and other organizations that do not work M-F 8-5.

I would also like to have a pet goat for landscaping purposes. They are quiet, provide quality fertilizer and love to eat poison ivy.

I would like to see our elected officials, namely council, represent the people that voted for them instead of working as a group to block young, fresh ideas and change. One person should not be permitted to determine the outcome of, not only his/her personal agenda but, all important decisions facing council. They ALL need to be informed and decide based on their own beliefs to better our community.

I would like to see some new housing development, maybe something like patio homes. the area behind Edgewood rd (called the kite field) would be good.. there is a easement on Edgewood rd near Washington rd . The Pittsburgh region is starting to grow and Forest hills should also start to grow. there have been little or no housing development here for decades. Why?

I would like to suggest that when living next to a storage unit which I do, I suggest that the property owner keep his property cleaned up. By that I mean, fallen trees, bushes, leaves, removal from snow and ice from the sidewalk all get cleaned up off the property. The residents of Forest Hills have to do this and are required to keep their properties in order but somehow, the owner next to my property doesn't think so. I have called several times and did no good. If your wondering who? It's Nese. He also has his wall falling over in my driveway that has been like for at least 15 years or more. That place has windows broken out and and it's an eyesore for those of us t hat live here. Thank you.

I would love a live music venue. I would love more support for bicycling (the town's character tends to be attractive to cyclists but the topography & traffic patterns are not).

I would love to see stronger support of the downtown district, in terms of attracting and keeping independent businesses that help local owners thrive and offer local choices to residents, not to mention help support local taxes so the full burden isn't on residents. This would require help with improvements in sidewalks / landscaping / signage, establishing a lot and/or more spaces for public parking and hosting/promoting downtown events such as the light up night again. That was one thing I loved when I first moved to Forest Hills, especially with the diversity of businesses including a local coffee shop, sweets/ice cream shop, bakery, antique store, etc. I feel like the quality and variety of offerings on Ardmore has decreased steadily with most of my favorites now gone (FH Coffee Company, Little Dishes, Enchanted Forest, Simple Gourmet, etc., etc.) and leave me with little reason to patronize the businesses there other than getting my taxes done or occasionally ordering a pizza. To me, the downtown area was a place I used to enjoy visiting with my family, getting to know the business owners, seeing neighbors, etc., and we especially loved the holiday light up night. I would love to see a resurgence in this area, especially now that we have recommitted to living in Forest Hills for at least the next 5 years. We are more than thrilled with the pool and other family events like Community Day and the community activities offered such as dog obedience, think the dog parks were a welcome addition and hope that the borough remains committed to it's designation as a "tree city," sustainability and environmental concerns. Thank you!

if you have kids you should pay school taxes no matter if you own or rent. senior citizens shouldn't have to struggle to pay such high school taxes when they have no kids.

I'm proud to be a member of this community, especially since environmental issues have always been of great concern to me. The fact that you even have a survey available for residents to take tells me you are committed to improving the borough through community involvement. You rock!

I'm very concerned about the deer population. It's out of control. I'm also concerned that the community is getting older and there is not enticement for younger people - very few restaurants, bars, storefront businesses. Why are there so many tax businesses on Ardmore?

Improvement of conditions at the high school

Increase police patrols in residential neighborhoods to deter theft; monitor speeders on Ardmore Blvd.

Isn't there any way to widen the Ardmore Boulevard especially where the businesses are? It is so very hard for me to get out of my car at Dr. Onufer's Office. Very dangerous!

I've been here for fewer than two years but I love living here. My biggest concern is probably the empty properties on Ardmore. I know it's a difficult task and I don't expect changes to happen overnight but it would be great to be able to attract some businesses to the area. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Just wanted to note that while I'm not a current resident, I grew up in FH and still visit family in FH often.
I hope that Forest Hills embraces the opportunity to restore the Westinghouse Atom Smasher and use it for history and STEM programs. With its unique history, it has so much potential as a signature resource for STEM programs/field trips for WHSD, community and technology heritage programs, and more!
KEEP POOL OPEN. Repair or replace baby pool
Love the sense of community and the recreational opportunities available for my teenager.
Lower taxes or I'm moving
Make efforts to entice new people to move to Forest Hills promoting easy access to Downton and Oakland. I would love if there would be options for Senior Housing that are attractive and not right on the Ardmore. Forest Hills is beautiful and should be a place to live for everyone.
Many of us work and recreate in Pittsburgh, better public transport than the Trafford buses would be wonderful.
Even better, more local restaurants and places to shop. Where is our Superior Motors or Biddle's Escape?
SIDEWALKS. I live in Edgewood Acres, where the streets have a 25mph limit and there are no sidewalks. We have lots of new parents walking their kids and dogs and they have to do it in the street instead of on sidewalks. I lived in suburbs in California and Texas for 20 years before moving to Forest Hills and have never lived in a neighborhood without sidewalks until Forest Hills.
More community activities or shared community vegetable garden for residents.
More street light for residential areas.
More support to the public school district and promotion of WHSD. The public reputation and image is unfair/not reflective of the majority of students. Communities in district need to be vocal and visible supporters. It will only help to bring younger families move in. Millennials also want and support diverse public education. Most of WHSD neigh-sayers are either from outside the district and or still believe the school mergers were wrong!!
More time and effort should be put into the area of maintaining our ordinances and codes in the borough- eg Grass height, bushes, junk around homes, etc. Do a better job with what we have on the books
More transparent council meetings
Most people who find themselves in need of assistance have some way of getting it. Some seniors have been bypassed by the explosion of social media of the past few years. They are trying to stick it out on their own in some cases. I would hope they could call the Borough Office and have someone go to their home to check on it and then get the appropriate county agency involved.
My biggest concern is people leaving the area due to the failing school system and higher taxes similar to Wilkinsburg now or Braddock years ago.....

My concerns are the following:

FH has basically stopped holding home owners accountable for the conditions of their property. MANY sidewalks are not kept clear of snow, bush overgrowth and weeds. Not to mention the cars that are parked on the sidewalks....and these are all belonging to houses with driveways and garages. Makes it very frustrating to walk safely.

We have had to look at the same garbage cans along the street of the same house 6-7 days a week for the past 10 years. Apparently they have never been told they had to be removed after pickup.

Leaves in the Fall, well before leaf pickup, are blown and piled INTO the street - not curbside. More and more are doing it every year, which makes for very dangerous driving on narrow or wet streets

Speed limits have NEVER enforced on our 15 mph street. When you are forced to walk in the street because cars are parked on the sidewalk or it is completely overgrown, this is a huge problem.

The growing number of rental houses and the lack of holding the owner responsible for maintaining the integrity of them, is a huge issue. This is an insult to the entire neighborhood - not to mention those that have to live next door to them.

Unfortunately, the above are not single instances or anything new. We have been watching and dealing with the decline for several years now, and because of this have chosen to leave FH. It certainly isn't the place that I remember growing up in....

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my opinions.

My family moved here in 1955, when I was three. For the most part Forest Hills is the same as it was, but with older and taller trees. Lots of families with young children live here as they did then. But the town center is without the kinds of attractions which kept us kids riding our bikes down Ardmore Blvd every day to hang out and spend a little money on a novelty toy, comic book or magazine, ice cream, or soda. There's just no variety, let alone a variety store. I grew up on Woodside Rd, but live on Filmore now. The fast-paced through-traffic is alarming to parents with children who play and ride bicycles outside on this street.

And last, a personal question. Is there a limit to how many stray cats someone can water, feed, and shelter at a single house? Ten? Twenty? I can't use outside door mats, or cover my grill or patio furniture because the males get into smelly, damp contests over which one dominates the locations. The stench is unbearable. And their warfare against Blue Jays, Cardinals, and other wild life is endless. I see little alive on my property, but I regularly dispose of animal remains and viscera, not to mention bird feeders are out of the question. So, is there an upper limit to the number of stray cats? A little help would be appreciated. Thank you!

My main concern is the lack of independent businesses in the downtown area. Parking is also an issue. I am also greatly concerned about the amount of truck traffic and speed limits through town. Many people do not shop on Ardmore Blvd., because it's too hard to get out of your car with the trucks zooming through.

No public housing. We need some new houses built in area- single family homes

Noise management. Civility in public spaces.

Dog walking on winding roads is increasingly dangerous - the convex mirrors that used to be on the telephone poles on Sherwood Road, for example, let both drivers and walkers see each other around the curves before they came upon each other! Where did those mirrors go?

Not all residents are politically represented!

not at this time

On my street there are a combination of retired residents and young couples with kids. This is a nice balance. The retirees are not able to pick up and leave if we find Forest Hills is no longer affordable, like the younger couples. I think the Borough needs to do everything possible to help keep us seniors in our homes. Additional transportation is a great idea. Maintain the integrity of the neighborhoods so property values do not decrease. Provide activities specific to seniors.

Our police department is excellent and well-trained, but needs to be out in public more often. We have multiple high-usage roadways that are dangerous to walk or bike on. Ardmore Boulevard, Brinton Road, and Greensburg Pike are a few roads where the number of speeders, careless drivers, people texting while driving, etc. make it difficult to enjoy spending time walking or biking around. We don't need to be a speed-trap town, but at the same time, most of our surrounding communities are much more visible in the community, especially through traffic enforcement.

The community activities that we currently have are excellent, but it's the same thing each year. The summer events and sign-up activities, for example, remain the same every year. We need new activities and new things to keep drawing people in, rather than always doing the same things each year.

Our residential areas have changed significantly over the last few decades. We have a lot more house flipping and rental now. People purchasing houses for investments can increase property values, but they can also decrease property values. It is essential that we hold these owners accountable, making sure that they are following all laws and ordinances, and making the community look better - not worse.

Parking facility in the business district would encourage new businesses to come to Forest Hills.

Find a way to lower Real Estate taxes, especially School taxes.

Keep encouraging the Late Bloomers and the Garden Club to expand their excellent work in beautifying our community. They provide the first impression of anyone looking to move here, or to open a business here. Very important.

Parking on my street (Halsey Ave) is difficult most of the time.

Please bring back the half price evening rate for the pool. We would use it so much more if that were an option.

Please consider curbside pickup of cardboard recycling. The fact that we are a tree city but don't offer this service is a true disappointment. I live in forest hills because it's close to the city. The fact that it isn't a walkable community is what has me thinking that I won't be here long-term. Poor schools are also a concern with resale value.

Please do not encourage biking on these narrow streets.

Can homeowners be re

Please do not tear down the old municipal building. It is a great historical place and could be made into a multi use location

Please make Flivver available to non seniors who have mild mobility issues and cannot drive. I would even be willing to donate for access since I am not a senior. Please do more to bridge the gap to lower income residents so they feel not just included but valued. Please find a way to offer grants to residents to repair or demolish dilapidated homes and outbuildings and generally improve appearance of facades. This would go a long way to encourage others to do likewise. A rising tide raises all boats.

Please work on a plan to revitalize the business district! That is one of the best ways to attract new families to the area!! Walkable neighborhoods that are affordable are impossible to find in Pittsburgh and would make Forest Hills highly desirable.

Pollution from our neighboring communities is not just an environmental concern. Pollution involves criminals, section 8 housing, drugs, etc.

Public schools must improve or we will likely move when baby reaches school age.

recognition of the history of the area back 100 years or so, it adds interest to the area as it continues to grow.

Recycle pickup every week instead of every other
Remove invasive vines from trees on public and private land. Our trees are dying.
Reputation of the school district and in particular recent poor publicity regarding the schools are a concern as is lack of transparency with regard to decision making leading to school tax decisions. I know of at least two families who have moved out of Forest Hills to locations with better school districts as their children reached school age. While the business district could certainly be improved with greater variety, more attractive facades, better quality, it will matter little if young families do not find the community a desirable place to live and raise their families.
School district driving property values down. FH should work on attracting young professionals, gay people, tech workers as residents. By stressing interesting and affordable housing stocks and proximity to Oakland and downtown Pittsburgh. Develop Community businesses and amenities to make people want to live here. No more section 8.
School district taxes as a deterrent to real estate growth (compared to other parts of the city); managing ticks
Serious efforts should be taken to implement public and private property maintenance. Forest Hills is not a community that holds that standard any longer and many residential properties are in shambles.
should we be combining services with neighboring boroughs such as a combined police, i know we tried once and churchill pulled out.
Sidewalk installation down both sides of Ardmore for its entire length in the borough. This will drive more local pedestrian traffic to local businesses.
Sidewalks, sidewalks, sidewalks! Its such a beautiful area and I think it would vastly improve the value of homes to add sidewalks throughout the residential neighborhoods. Would encourage more young families to move in!
So many new people see that people ignore local ordinances, they just think they can too. Simple but important things like managing the trash cans, shoveling snow on the entire sidewalk not just the walkway to the front door. Maintaining trimmed yards and controlling weeds. Parking cars on the sidewalk. Controlling noise from the Cabana club on Sherwood and the people who leave their dogs outside all day to bark incessantly. Begin enforcing the rules , word will get out you could be cited and then the problem goes away or becomes more manageable for a part time code enforcement officer.
So much is spent on police, public works, and road paving. Sidewalks and walkways and actually neglected and falling apart. Merge police departments, we have to many at too high a cost. People leave here for the frick park area because Ardmore is unsafe, cars speed, and there is a lack of park paths and sidewalks for recreation. The recreation programs are good, but need to be expanded. Start to communicate with young families. That will be the only way to reinvigorate the boro. The city will be snagging that demographic soon.
Solar roads! Movies in the park. Icecream shop
Stop spending 30% of our budget on some mall cops that spend all day driving a loop in an oversized suv.
Please don't focus revitalizing the "downtown" area with increased parking. It's very easy to find a spot in the shopping center for those who need to drive. You should instead make walking or biking more accessible. Protected bike lanes on ardmore and making sure there is a continuous walkway would be ideal, but I know that is unlikely.
Of course there needs to be an actual reason to go to the downtown area beside Aldi. But I have my doubts that small businesses can survive there.

Suggestions. Jungle gym, cabin rentals, parks in the hills, pavilions, flower shop, theater, improve existing walkways that are going in through the forest, miniature golf, ice cream, outdoor eating, pastry, coffee, ATMs, vending, improve sidewalk, roads, curb appeal, surveillance cameras to catch people speeding and not using stop signs, Hi fines for speeding, stop signs etc. littering, should have a no loud music zone through neighborhoods especially Braddock Road, speed bumps through the neighborhood to prevent people who are just driving through to take shortcuts, more neighborhood get together's, Sunday should be a day that there is no lawn mowers weed trimmers blowers power tools can we just keep one day a week left to the birds and the sound of laughter, A help your neighbor program if an older neighbor or someone who is not well needs yardwork complete yo help maintain an attractive for residents and victors. Thank you

Support for urban farming.

Survey drag and drop section does not work on iPhone SE. Survey seems poorly edited.

I am disenchanted with public works, which seems to flub some rather basic tasks, e.g. leaf collection that doesn't follow schedule; pothole repairs fall apart in weeks; yard waste dumpster burdened with silly restrictions and a belligerent sign threatening fines. Swimming pool fees are extremely high, slanting use of the pool towards more affluent residents. It's difficult to contact borough officials, request services or address problems due to limited office hours and no email contact options. I feel the borough is looking for eye-catching special projects while ignoring the boring but necessary.

Tax assistance, affordable senior care, affordable senior transportation downtown.

Taxes are based on building and site estimate value. Which can be different for same type property. How about basing taxes on size of property at one rate (e.g. \$5 per sq. ft. or \$15 sq. yd. Based on present total collected taxes.)

Taxes are too high, especially school taxes. I may have to move if my school taxes get any higher. I am on a fixed income and the high school taxes are a big burden to my living expenses. Otherwise, I love living in Forest Hills. I really hope I don't have to move.

Taxes for a failing school district are way too high. Taxes will eventually force me out of area. And not a thing will be done about it.

Thank you for taking such care in soliciting community feedback!

Thank you for your efforts at inclusion in building this new vision for our community.

Thank you!!!

Thanks for the meetings and this survey. (even though I have trouble answering survey questions.) Thanks for working on a plan to keep us moving forward and not just slipping backward.

The air (smell) in Forest Hills is at best "okay", and most of the times, awful. As one of the many communities being impacted by Edgar Thompson plant, Forest Hills needs to be a leader in gathering communities/support to put an end to their refusal to comply with regulation.

The air horn that goes off ALL THE TIME at the fire station... WHY? With today's technology why still use this system? It's disruptive to the community and confuses out of town people. No one knows what it is for. And because it goes off all the time no one takes it seriously, if that is what it's meant for?

The ambulance and police services are among the best anywhere.

The area needs increased police patrols. The instances of vandalism have increased since I first moved in.

The Borough Government Officials need to step-up to The county, State and federal government and speak up for a better public school system, Gun Violence, and police protection: We need to partner more to find answers for our neighboring communities or Forest Hills will fall down in Home Ownership, income levels, Medium Price Homes - representation in the County, state and Federal levels:

The only thing that comes to mind is snow removal on Greensburg Pike. I know it is a county road, but maybe forest hills & Wilkins can encourage the county to actually plow it as a priority. It's a main artery for a lot of drivers, & it is dangerous to drive early in the morning when there is snow. Also, another problem, Greensburg Pike has a lot of speeders. Maybe speed bumps could help. I believe there are seasonal ones so they can be removed in winter for plowing (which is a joke).

As for retail shops, a coffee shop, bagel place and ice cream shop would be awesome by the borough bldg. perfect for commuters & the many walkers on the Pike. Flatten that plaza & put these shops in would really bring up the value of the community. Just a thought.

The park at the corner of Morrow and Sherwood in the Bryn Mawr area has recently been neglected. Many children use that park after school when the school buses drop them off. I would like to see this park better maintained for the children's enjoyment.

The roads are in bad shape and are not being resurfaced enough.

The sidewalks and curbs on avenue F are in poor shape. It's an embarrassment to our historical Westinghouse plan. Have been promised improvement but have not seen any attempt to fix them.

The speed limit is not enforced on Greensburg Pike. I believe only two lanes are needed in this residential area and on-street parking should be allowed at all times. We love where we live, but are always concerned about the traffic and speed at which they drive.

The top of the hill @ Glasgow rd. has 25lb water pressure in my home and I am sick of it! W.P.J.W.A will do nothing about it.

The governing of Forest Hills is to LIBERAL and I am sick of it!

Quit spending money on iron arches over Rt 30 and other LIBERAL art and spend it on the roads.

Enforce the codes when it comes to residents keeping their property in proper repair .

The traffic lights on Ardmore favor through traffic and disfavor residents. It creates opportunities for speeding on Ardmore and difficulties for pedestrian traffic, discouraging biking, walking and shopping. The "business district" is actually dangerous for shoppers getting into and out of their cars when commuters drive past at 45/50 mph. (No, they do not drive the posted 35 mph.) Maybe a ticket-issuing camera system the length of Ardmore would help reduce speeds to a new 30 mph limit. This community does NOT have to accommodate commuter through-traffic, especially when it creates a danger to residents and cross-traffic.

The white tail deer population is increasing, causing health, i.e. Lyme Disease, and safety, i.e. vehicle accidents, problems. I believe that we need to work with surrounding communities to address this problem.

There are too many rental properties happening in our borough. These rental homes are not kept up to high standards and are pulling down the look of Forest Hills. Forest Hills also is too lenient with homeowners who don't take care of their property. This, along with with a very negatively rated school district, is putting our borough into a "sink or swim" position. I feel we need to become more strict with our policies (like Edgewood and Mt. Lebanon, for example) and hold our residents accountable when it is obvious that they are not doing their part.

On a positive note, I feel that Forest Hills is a family-friendly community, has a very strong police and fire department, beautiful homes, and a lot of great community activities. We must continue to build on what we already have that has defined us for so many years.

There is not enough summer events like a few concerts or community events during the summer like at Frick's jazz concert once a month. There should be more emphasis on senior citizen and AARP events in the community. Block parties should be encouraged in each of the neighborhoods. We definitely need competition for Roman Bistro. The downtown area needs a parking lot (somewhere) in the rear of the main shopping area on The Ardmore. Thanks for taking the time.

Things that I would love to see:

- A robust gas station with food - i.e. Sheetz, GetGo, Speedway
- More Casual Dining
- Easy way to submit trees for trimming/removal
- Ability to park overnight on the street - perhaps with a permit system
- Doggie Daycare/Obedience School
- Community Co-op Garden

This is a minor issue, but the weight and quality of the paper used for the Tree City Times is extravagant. I just read it and throw it away, then feel badly about the waste. Overall the newsletter is well written and well designed -- but I see no need for such expensive paper. Makes me wonder what else the boro administration is wasteful about?

This was already addressed somewhat in previous questions, but we just have a lot of outdated (and ugly) empty office space. I'd like to see some of the nicer office spaces filled, and have the uglier office spaces dealt with in some way (maybe that means tearing it down and rebuilding or just somehow updating what is already there, but I'm not sure what is actually feasible...) Also, the small "downtown" strip in Forest Hills (the row of buildings where Jake & Son Pizza used to be) is prime real estate to put in a new restaurant, brewery, coffee shop, other type of unique shop, etc. but we have CPA offices, tax help offices, and other types of businesses that I wish weren't taking up those downtown spaces. Perhaps there is a way to incentivize those businesses to move out of those spots and move into some of the other existing office space in town... I would love to see our small downtown full of places to go to eat, drink, spend time, and be entertained, because I currently have to go to neighboring communities (8th Avenue in Homestead, blocks around Forbes & Murray, Southside, etc.) to do those things. I would not be interested in seeing a lot of new national chains and box stores - I would love to see more unique, local offerings.

Transportation, infrastructure, and general maintenance is key to the future. Overall, these things need to be prioritized and paid for first. A lot of ideas are nice, but certain regular maintenance probably needs more money right now vs. it being reallocated for new projects. Specifically, I've called a dozen time and even asked my neighbor to report me to Zoning so that the Borough owned tree in my front yard would be pruned. It's overdue and overgrown at this point, hanging over my roof. I'm not sure if it's a resources issue or what, but I'd like those types of standard department maintenance issues that should have a schedule to be prioritized and resolved before the focus is for other new projects. I wonder if there is enough staffing to cover the current workload and certainly wouldn't want the staffing pulled to other projects.

Try and keep the borough free from as much Sec. 8 housing as possible.....

walkability and parking on ardmere with more to do.

More summer community events for different age groups-movies in parks, concerts, car shows, festivals to raise money for emergency services, etc...

We are thrilled with the pool. We have young children and will be using the recreational facilities extensively for the next 10-12 years. Maintenance, expansion, improvements to those facilities are highly supported.

we do like living in forest hills, but like all around here, some shady folks in move'ing in !!!!!!!!!!!!!\

We do our weekly grocery shopping and eat out at restaurants in the east end of Pittsburgh. We would shop and eat in Forest Hills if there was a variety of quality options.

We have a lot of positives living in Forest Hills. Our main concerns in this household are: Condition of Roadways & sloppy patchwork, the dismantled eyesore that is the historic atom smasher & the devaluation of our neighborhood as a result, storm water redirection after rains and sewer line maintenance. Of course, our school district faces many challenges, and sending students to charter & private schools harms their funding, Im not sure how easily this could be addressed by the Borough itself. Thank you for allowing residents to chime in on the development of our community!

We live on Cascade Road between Braddock and Fairfax. We have no sidewalks and a narrow street. We need SPEED BUMPS!!! You say it's not possible because of snow plows and garbage trucks, but my mom lives in a small town in NJ with parking on both sides of the street, and they have speed bumps/humps that work just fine for public maintenance. Even though you lowered the speed limit to 15 mph, cars still speed by going at least 35-40, especially during the commuter hours. Please help us. We have nowhere to walk ourselves and our dogs except in the street. We need protection with speed bumps.

We love living in Forest Hills but the only thing missing that would make it perfect is a walkable downtown with more restaurants and shops. Surely something can be done with Ardmore to make this possible.

We love living in Forest Hills! Thanks for taking the time to ask for and listen to our opinions. It is exciting to think that Forest Hills can become an even better place to live!

We must do something about the schools. Young families leave when they have children. Develop magnet schools like PPS

we NEED mirrors on the poles Lenox. when cars park on those streets, you cant see when turning from the horizontal streets, until youre halfway out of the street.

we need better trained police officers! no emotional training whatsoever. At this rate I would rather deal with a situation on my own than call them.

HUGE groundhog problem over on Lenox and Sumner.

We need more restaurant and shopping options in our community. We have to drive out of our community for better restaurant options. Appealing restaurants and shopping is needed to attract people to our community. Nicer strip malls (not check cashing and nail salons) should be considered. Taco Bell should not be the only fast food option in this area.

We need roads to be safer for people to walk and bike on. We need police more visible and pulling cars over. There are so many accidents on Ardmore Boulevard and they could be avoided if the police stopped people more often for speeding, swerving in and out of lanes, and distracted driving (using their cell phones). I walk on Ardmore Boulevard and Greensburg Pike and in both places I see so many people driving carelessly.

We really love it here. I had lived in Wilkins Township for most of my life. Coming to Forest Hills, it really does feel like a hometown, instead of another bedroom community.

We're so happy here, and we can't wait to meet everyone and become more involved!

We really need emphasis on maintaining our roads, staircases and sidewalks. Many staircases that promoted walking around the neighborhood and to schools have been left to decay, or were closed. Roads are crumbling, storm drains are collapsing, water from springs runs onto roads and creates breakdown and ice hazards in the winter.

I have watched the deterioration of these types of services over my 68 years of living in Forest Hills and it is a terrible shame.

We will be losing our senior citizens who do pay their taxes if we don't get a break especially on the school taxes.

Westinghouse property - atom smasher - It's an eyesore that brings down quality of life for residents of that area. What's the plan?

What specific steps has the FH police taken to ensure that it provides good coverage of all areas now that the offices are at the very edge of the borough land?

Hopeful that new leadership at high school and in the district will be good for educational offerings in our area

When we walk, we encounter several sidewalks that have broken cement. This is a hazard to those who walk our residential streets. Also, when walking, we notice that there are several homes in our area that has grass that needs mowed. I believe there are ordinances in our borough that does not allow grass to be over a certain length and that sidewalks are to be maintained. Do we still have someone on the borough staff that oversees these types of concerns?

While our residential area consist of approximately 85% of the borough, several issues can be address by improving the appearance and the allure of a retail area on Ardmore. The "full-time" businesses (that are actually part-time or no-time) need to be replaced and augmented by more diverse retail offerings. A UNIFIED appearance would do wonders for the allure. basically use the regent Square district as a model. What we don't need is more agency based businesses here and definitely no more fast food joints. We are missing hundreds of opportunities daily by appearing run-down, lackadaisical and ill-managed. Have anyone in the municipality ever heard of FRESH PAINT let alone actual development? It's embarrassing...add to that the property taxes and taxes for a school board I couldn't care less about. No kids = ZERO carbon footprint for my entire family. Anyone with kids has totally BLOWN IT for an entire generation of their family. I REALLY don't want to encourage over-population.

WHSD needs reform. Taxes are outrageous mostly due to WHSD, to the point we are considering selling our house and buying something in Trafford. Retail on Ardmore is a fools errand, but restaurants have proven successful. We need an ethnic restaurant on Ardmore or nearby, badly.

Biggest disappointment in recent years has been the intersection of Filmore and Ardmore that you allowed Dunkin Donuts to ruin by not forcing a dogbone barrier. It's made an already problematic intersection extremely dangerous, and everyone knows there is no enforcement of the painted and posted rules about turn-ins and turn-outs from Dunkin. The older FHPD officer violates the signage constantly so obviously nobody else has to worry about enforcement if he does it. I ought to start taking pictures of all the people doing it and show up to one of your borough meetings, because honestly I'm pretty sure you all know about this but choose to ignore the problem until someone gets in a fatal accident there.

Why don't we have a street cleaner in the spring our street is full of dirt. Then in the summer we have weeds growing along the curbs

With our school district, Woodland Hills, so known for its performing arts program, I would love to see some sort of community venue for small performances. Whether they be student produced recitals, talent shows for community day, film showings, or double as a place to hold public forums, that is one thing I find missing from our community. Like the pool lodge, it could also be rented for small, private gatherings. I feel very safe in the community and want to commend the FHPD for being so present and accessible. I know thee are many small businesses in the area, be their store front or home-based. It would be nice to see some sort of fair or event that highlights them. Sometimes, even just driving through the business district, I'm not sure what each store houses, or if they are even open.

Would like to see communities on both sides of the Ardmore connected - perhaps by a overhead bridge(s) so people can walk to destinations on either side. Probably too expensive, but would like this to be considered along with more sidewalks - and NOT just along the Ardmore.

Seems that FH is becoming more diverse, but we need to encourage and embrace this shift and become more inclusive.

We need a positive marketing plan - use a professional marketing company - to promote FH! Woodland Hills should be promoted for the good that is happening, not just the negatives. I feel this is critical to bring more interest in living here (and selling our homes for a fair market price!)

More sidewalks - please consider putting them on Brinton Road - we are captive and cannot get anywhere on foot due to hazards of walking along the road.

Beautification of Ardmore - I think that the overhead arches that were supposed to welcome people to and beautify the entrances to FH are distasteful - I feel like they belong in a gymnasium or an industrial site. Do not blend in with our "Tree City" traditional community.

Would like: more regular street sweeping; more money for care of street trees; change of most "No parking anytime" to "No parking this side" on many street signs.

Would love a spray part in our rec areas somewhere. Affordable pool membership plans would be great. We were priced out after the renovations. I wish there was an active official community Facebook or twitter updated consistently.

Yes!! Forest Hills is the tree city. Ask the borough citizens if we feel our trees are trimmed and properly taken care of. They once were, but no longer are.

Also, code enforcement does not do a good job regarding property weeds. Take the time to do borough neighborhood drives.

Your list of "Who can we ask to join us?" does not include long-term residents. They can provide reasons they moved to and stayed in Forest Hills. Coordinate with surrounding communities that are affected by Forest Hills' plan and who will affect Forest Hills with their plans. For example, the development of the former Westinghouse property behind avenue D can have a significant impact on Chalfant borough with increased traffic (negative) more business for Tugboat's (positive).

**Appendix IV**  
**Public Meeting Notes**

# Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Public Meeting

## Borough Building

August 6, 2018 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

### Committee Members Present:

Rick Fosbrink

Gail Harper

Leon, Harper

Tom Theilacker

Angelo Baiocchi

**Total residents present: 23**

### Three Major Topics Discussed:

1. Infrastructure
2. Quality of Life
3. Business District

Positives	Negatives
Snow Removal	Borough Trees
Leaf Pickup	Storm Sewers
Diversity of Residents	Street Repair
Neighborhoods	Gas Lines
Flivver	Water Quality
Parks	Fire Service Funding Issues
Pool	School District Taxes
Dog Park	Noise Pollution from School
Tennis Courts	Oversight of School Security
	Air Quality
	Speed Enforcement
	Code Enforcement
	Programs for Seniors
	Greensburg Plaza
	Hosanna House Noise and Traffic
	Business Area Parking
	Business Area Speed
	Business Area Trees Blocking Sidewalk
	Business Area Vacancies
	No Attractors
	Aesthetics of Business Area

## Discussion/Comments:

1. Borough needs to maintain trees. Borough practices and responsibilities have changed. What is the definition of a borough tree. Does the borough's responsibility end 4-6 feet from the curb?  
Do we have the right trees for our area? Most are Elm, Oak, Sycamore and Pin Oak. What is the borough policy?  
Is there any coordination with utility companies for trimming trees? Utility companies are destroying some trees.
2. Storm water management is needed in some areas. Heavy rain in low areas can cause sewer backups. Some examples are Kenmore and Forest Hills roads. We need downspout management. Storm sewers are not present in all areas of the borough.
3. What is our paving program. Many areas need to be paved. Streets have holes or are crumbling.
4. Aging gas lines are a concern. How is the borough coordinating with utility companies to locate and repair these lines?
5. Should we have a water testing program for lead, etc. Aging water lines need to be replaced.
6. Clarify what the Fire Service Fee covers. Need transparency. How are volunteer donations to the VFD used? Who decides? Need transparency.
7. School District Taxes, what are the options that are under the boroughs control? We need to spell that out. How do we address the noise pollution from the school?
8. School Taxes are too high. It affects home and business buying and selling and decisions by young families to move here. Since this district was created by federal mandate is there any federal relief available?
9. School should consider hiring social workers to improve availability of counseling.
10. Atom smasher, what was in the contract and what can we do about it? It's part of our history and played a role our nation's atomic history.
11. KDKA radio also part of our history. How to we acknowledge and promote it?

12. We need to develop more programs for seniors. We need a space for activities. What are the desired programs for the new generation of seniors?
13. Greensburg Plaza is an eyesore next to the borough building. What steps can the borough take improve the property that is not part of Forest Hills proper?
14. Need more aggressive code enforcement. Properties are not being maintained by their owners to the point that they are becoming dangerous to the public. Potential slum lord owners.
15. Hosanna house noise and traffic pollution. How can the borough control this?
16. Speed enforcement needs to be improved. We need to look at more creative traffic calming measures. Speeding is a danger to children playing and walkers.
17. Business area parking and speed limit through the area is a problem.
18. Business area sidewalks need repair, and there is an increasing amount of litter.
19. There are too many business vacancies.
20. We need more diversity in the types of businesses.
21. We have no area attractor.
22. Suggestions were made for a small theater like Regent Square, a parking garage, improved crosswalks, maybe raised crosswalks, plan to improve the aesthetics of the business district.
23. Why are businesses leaving Forest Hills?
24. We need a better variety of restaurants.
25. We should revisit the trees in the median along the business district. Replace with shrubs. Need better landscaping.
26. Consider establishing a museum at Westinghouse lodge as an attraction for Forest Hills.

## **Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting**

August 6, 2018

28 people were in attendance

### Key Areas

1. Borough Infrastructure
2. Quality of Life
3. Business District
4. Other

The other discussion brought us back to the original items so I added them in.

### Discussion centered around the following questions

1. What's great about Forest Hills?
2. What's not so great about Forest Hills?
3. What would you like to see 10 years down the road?

Questions 2 and 3 blended together.

Please note that while much of the discussion centered around the not so great, there was a general feeling that Forest Hills is a wonderful place to live and improving it was the primary motivation for the discussion. In addition, some things may be listed as both good and not so good as not everyone agreed.

## **Borough Infrastructure**

### What is good:

- Snow removal
- Leaf pick-up
- Trees
- Water quality
- Fire, Police, EMS and the Public Works Department
- Reasonable borough tax rate
- The former borough building will not be torn down, but used for office space.

### What is not so good and what we would like to see 10 years down the road:

- Maintenance of borough trees: Borough trees are 4'-6' from inside of curb/lack of an arborist. When trees are removed, not sure if there is a policy to replace them.
- Flooding from storm water sewers: Cherry Valley, Kenmore, Forest Hills Road (there are no storm sewers on Wilkins)
- Equitability of street repair/lots of pot holes
- Preventative maintenance of aging infrastructure
- Water quality
- The need to resolve issues with the FH Volunteer Fire Department: there is confusion between the Fire Services Fee and solicitation from the FH Volunteer Fire Department
- School District:

- Taxes are high and the reputation of the district, whether perceived or actual (opinions differed), hurts real estate values. This would also help attract young families as we have a strong baby boomer population.
- Past abuse indicates that security personnel need oversight
- Noise level when there are activities from outside groups (the also happens with Hosanna House)
- It was suggested that police provide, through the schools, positive interactions with young children
- It was suggested that the school district needs more social workers

## **Quality of Life**

### What is good:

- First radio station
- Diversity
- Flivver
- Pool/Tennis courts fabulous
- Parks fabulous

### What is not so good and what we would like to see 10 years down the road:

- Air quality from Edgar Thompson
- Atom Smasher: someone thought that in the sales contract was a requirement to remove, restore and/or repair
- The closing of the Senior Center has resulted in many seniors feeling isolated. With reduced federal/state budget allocations, aging services have taken a big hit and volunteers are needed to fill the gap.
- The cost of the pool passes.
- The shopping plaza in Wilkins Township next to the Borough Building is an eyesore. Contact should be made with Wilkins Township regarding code enforcement.
- Code enforcement is not uniformly applied. There are properties that are not being maintained and cars parked on the sidewalk.
- Traffic speed, stopping at stop signs, signalling, etc. could be better and safer for all.

## **Business District**

### What is good:

### What is not so good and what we would like to see 10 years down the road:

- Limited parking. Perhaps a parking garage might be feasible.
- General speed of traffic on Ardmore as the borough appears to be a thoroughfare rather than a destination. In the business district proper, 35 mph and 40 mph outside that. The 40 mph past the park and soccer fields looks excessive.
- Sidewalks are narrow in spots because of trees and some are in need of repair.
- Cars running red lights or turning on red when that is prohibited.

- Litter.
- Too many vacancies and lack of diversity and quality of businesses needed to attract people to shop and eat.
- Need a more cohesive “look” to the business district. Perhaps bury electrical lines in median strip.
- Need businesses that would attract young people - Thai restaurant for example.
- Need a regional attraction (Westinghouse/Broadcasting museum) to potentially attract tech companies.
- Raised crosswalks?

## Comprehensive Plan Update: Community Meeting #2

### Forest Hills Fire Department

8/29/2018 7:00 PM

Richard Fosbrink –Forest Hills Borough Planning Commission, presiding

PDeMarco, Tom Thielacker, Bill Gorol (Steve Morus) Present

19 people mixed demographic

Three broad topics:

<b>I. <u>Great Things</u></b>	<b>Borough Infrastructure – roads- taxes, FD, EMS, Gov’t <u>Not great things</u></b>
+ Snow removal	- pot holes, road conditions
+ Trash removal, recycling	- WPJWA: water line breaks, sewer repairs
	- Storm water management: Flooding, landslides
+Police service, EMS, FD is excellent	sidewalks are terrible in many places, absent
+Borough Council very involved	in places; responsibility of homeowner
+Well-governed, staff	- “crazy steps” in poor repair and dangerous, helpful to have railings: Ardmore, Yost & Braddock
+Get a lot for our taxes in Borough	need sidewalks to be safe for pedestrians
+Flivver, Meals on Wheels excellent	
community support & volunteers	

-Bright Park- Sherwood/Morrow in poor repair

+Many local neighborhood parks

+Pool and tennis courts, playgrounds - Abandoned houses, blighted properties

+Community Day Hayride, Chili Cook-Off - Code enforcement lax

National Night Out, Farmers Market

+ variety of community events

+Beautiful community- trees

+New Borough Building energy savings - location of new building is terrible

## II. Quality of Life- recreation, parks, community

### Great Things

### NOT Great Things

+Diversity of house types

and styles,character

-WHSD needs improvement

+Good value for housing & service

+Convenient to Pgh and highways

-Speeding in neighborhoods, esp in 15 MPH zones

+Dog Park; dog rules in neighborhoods

+Westinghouse Lodge and Community

Borough Room as community assets

- Need marketing for Borough services

-Need better communication within the town

+Diversity of Wildlife to watch

-Too many deer, groundhogs, raccoons

Getting ecosystem out of balance- eg destroying native flowers for pollinators

-Noise from Lawn services/lawn cutting

+Chickens and bees available

-Park maintenance and tree service increasing costs

+Local Bistro & TJ's liquor license

(not dry town)

+local Farmer's Market

+Doctors and dentists in town

+Diversity of green space, trees,

+Two garden clubs

-Senior center activities for community (eg card groups) should be restored

+New Library and services

### **III. Business District-**

(This was more of a discussion. There were few, if any, positive statements about the business district)

Need to re-market Forest Hills as High tech attraction

No parking in the business district!

Need focus or theme for the business area "look"

Need a hardware store

Not inviting, dangerous to pedestrians, high speed traffic

Police enforcement for traffic control

What can we do to make the business district better?

Attract an independent coffee shop/ internet café

More variety of restaurants

A cool funky bar/micro-brewery

Look at Regent Square as a model / Oakmont

**Make the area safer for walking/** parking for local access

Walking bridge for crossing safely wider sidewalks

Public art in the business district eg “Art All Night” public art

Gallery for local artists, cultural activities, concerts in the park in the summer

Light Up Night in the business district – organizer needed? Rec Board? Chamber of Commerce

Roller rink/bowling alley

Pottery shop

Community theater and concerts in the park – public picnic concerts

Create an Arts and Culture Commission

Re-establish a Community Development Corporation for public/private partnerships

Talk to Lawrenceville about how they re-created their business area ( City of Pittsburgh mechanisms)

*Develop a vision of Forest Hills Business District concept*

What do we want more of? What do we want to avoid

Attract independent businesses, community businesses

Avoid more generic chain franchises

Avoid parking lots in front with buildings set back; make pedestrian - safe areas in business district

**Discussions:**

\*Need regional conversation about sustainability, FH can be a leader

Adopt a Sustainability Position as an advocate

Energy efficiency /solar promotion materials for citizens, assistance to homeowners; concept of the Net zero building does not trickle down to citizens, info from Borough can be more proactive

Develop opportunity for air quality monitoring & water quality testing and reporting

Need regional approach

Cost issue for sustainability – eg EV for public vehicles

\*Westinghouse Atom Smasher as a historic artifact

“Westinghouse” history “You can be sure if it’s Westinghouse!”

Capture and commemorate the history – plaques, walking tour, history of neighborhoods

History of Forest Hills book- seek the data and make the labels as part of the centennial

Tugboat has pictures- Lanagan has photos Maps posted of area in past

Brand as “Cradle of Innovation” as way of the future- Not focused on the past alone

Show History of Falls Run Creek- map of where the stream really runs under and across the roads

## **Forest Hills Borough**

### **Comprehensive Plan – Community Meeting #3**

**September 15, 2018**

Richard Fosbrink presiding- T. Thielaker, W. Burleigh, P. DeMarco

Attendance: 15

Introduction:

Comprehensive Plan = plan for development and land use

## Community based update

### Three Areas of Focus:

I. Infrastructure- focus areas of government services and support

II. Quality of Life issues: neighborhood, activities, recreation

III. Ardmore Boulevard and Business Area

#### I. **Infrastructure:**

##### **Positive things:**

Snow removal is superb clear

Pool available and parks accessible and well served, including the dog park

Excellent volunteer service with Flivver – best place to hear the news of town

Wildlife diversity

Safety is excellent –Police and Fire Dept are very responsive

Tree City Times is excellent

Farmers Market

Bell chimes are characteristic

Pool Lodge and Westinghouse Lodge, New Borough Building and library very positive

Stable political association at state level (Jay Costa grants for infrastructure, Mike Doyle both live in Forest Hills)

Trees and tree canopy are important part of Forest Hills- need to plan for replacement trees- position under power lines is a problem; there is an advantage to having the Borough take care of the trees for quality and consistency and safety- tree service is backlogged  
Taxes are stable- we get good value for the taxes we pay in Forest Hills- school taxes seem high

Robo-calls limited to land lines- not available to cell phones; e-mail newsletter would be helpful- web site is not easy to navigate

##### **Difficulties:**

Keeping businesses in Ardmore

Sidewalk and walking areas are unmaintained

Forest Hills Arches did not make a difference, maintenance and upkeep

Overrun with deer and pest animals –skunk control

Invasive plants- grape vines and other invasive

Taxes are confusing- FH staff was very helpful in explaining the system- confusing about how to address for income tax

Tree pruning and maintenance- need a certified arborist; need clarity on obligation for maintenance – homeowners vs Borough

Could Borough do a survey of Borough trees and assess status and health of trees?

School District has negative drag on the Borough – perception and reality may not be aligned; bad news prevails- young families have moved out due to the schools- Comp Plan steering committee will be meeting with the School District  
Public relations and marketing for the Borough is poor at best- need better communication about positive events and actions – we hear the bad news, not the good news.

How are we doing on code enforcement, home maintenance?  
FH seems to enforce codes strictly, has a positive effect on the community; some structures appear shabby, seems declining- empty lots overgrown in some areas

Some streets need to be re-paved

## II. **Quality of Life Issues:**

### **Good things:**

Sidewalks in the neighborhoods promote walking  
Dog walkers are for the most part responsible – dog park helps  
Parks accessible and well-maintained  
Bus line convenient with Park & Ride but no sidewalk and bus stop area seems dangerous  
Air quality is better because of the trees  
Lots of amenities like restaurants, could use more, grocery store and convenience stores  
Recreation programs are excellent – swimming and athletics for children, active and vibrant scout troops  
Library is an excellent asset- increased programming in progress  
Tennis courts are good quality  
Senior Center: residents only vs all invited- who is responsible for maintenance?  
Community Day and Hayride- old-fashioned, may benefit from update  
Tradition and history – Westinghouse connection important for founding and tradition of innovation- need better knowledge about Westinghouse story  
Atom Smasher??? Landmark and tradition  
Variety of construction types  
Market Forest Hills around innovation and technology history – “Cradle of Innovation”

### **Difficulties:**

No sidewalks in high traffic areas  
Speed limit too high on Ardmore – State Rte 30 – need to enforce better and more punitively and aggressively- make Forest Hills a “speed trap” enforce Dunkin Donuts turns  
Ardmore business district is negatively affected by high speed traffic on Ardmore  
Pedestrian crossings for right of way  
Senior services could be more expansive  
Teen amenities not as robust  
Rental fees for Pool Lodge and Westinghouse Lodge seem really high for meetings for small groups

Need historical markers for neighborhoods – coal mines, farms, neighborhood evolution  
Have a place in the new Borough Building to display the history and evolution of the town

### **III. Business District**

#### **Benefits**

3 lanes to shift in rush hour

bury the utility lines to slow

make the Ardmore median a pedestrian/bike path

Seventh Ave in Homestead moving forward

Walkable with artisanal businesses – community centered – be the place people come to when they are “priced out” of Regent Square

Avoid the “strip mall” feel

Authenticity of our neighborhood – unique experiences in a community setting

Parking area in business district- off street is OK, but along street is dangerous

Close to Google/Bakery Square

#### **Difficulties:**

Speed of traffic

Retaining businesses a problem

Geographic traffic isolation- techies want bicycle access, no safe corridors for pedestrian or bicycle

FH is a bicycle wasteland – bicycle path on the median of Ardmore?

Community congregation- “third space” coffee shop, bakery, a gathering place for community- find Forest Hills more affordable than Regent Square- Oakmont, Verona, Forbes Ave in Squirrel/Murray Ave may be models

Petition the State DOT for lower speed limit on Ardmore in the business district.

Improve the pedestrian safety and appeal

Is the population density an issue for businesses?

Make the business district a destination area

Explore traffic calming along Ardmore Blvd

Explore Pedestrian Overpass areas

#### **If you could do anything you wanted , money no obstacle, what would you do?**

Put RTe 30 in a tunnel under Forest Hills

Market Forest Hills as a positive place

Bubble over the swimming pool to use year round  
Put in an ice rink  
Restore business district street scene  
Concept of Forest Hills arches was good, but did not fully execute the other aspects, signage is out of scale  
Sidewalks and nature trails and bike ways; restore walkways and crazy steps  
Need better forest management- get rid of invasive weeds, need brush management; aggressively maintain the arboreal landscape- trails need better maintenance  
Expand the net zero borough building concept- focus on green business attraction  
Forest Hills Memories facebook page – update  
“Road Diet” to create a bike highway on Ardmore  
Foster better connections with Edgewood and neighboring communities  
Lawrenceville and Millvale attracted artists and artisanal areas- seed the arts community here- arts festival, concerts- establish Arts and Culture Commission  
Borough collaboration for services and economies  
Bring in the goats to eat invasive vines

## **Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting 9/20/18**

12 People in Attendance

### Borough Infrastructure Discussion (Key Issues of Government)

Great

- Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works
- Snow removal
- Borough trees need clarification and maintenance
- Public gardens and garden clubs
- Parks
- Pool/classes
- Community events: Hayride, Community Day
- Flivver - provides a place for people to serve as well as a valuable service
- New Borough Building and Library
- Westinghouse Lodge
- We should be proud of the Westinghouse legacy and could be the possible future location of Mr. Conrad's garage/museum
- We could capitalize on the Westinghouse legacy by: partnering with Google; Carrie Furnace could serve as a model for future developments; Rick Sebak could be an ally; we could be a cradle of innovation for the past and future; we could have a history trail
- Children's activities/recreation programs

- Woodland Hills SDs programs - need good PR
- We are developing a relationship with the SD

Not so Great

- Flooding in Cherry Valley/Bryn Mawr - corner of Cherry Valley and Forest Hills Roads has 4 storm sewers but they collect leaves - leaves should not be put out on the street this early or they need to be collected earlier
- Borough trees need arborist
- Atom Smasher is in ruins
- Sr. Citizens facility and activities - could we work with local churches; could we relocate the facility into FH again; could we combine with Edgewood and N. Braddock; would it help to use the community room twice a week for card playing?
- Woodland Hills SD segregated internally, low test scores

### Quality of Life

Great

- Activities for children
- Sense of community - crime alert; people check on neighbors, bring food; National Night Out; events/activities - Farmers Market; Bryn Mawr Corn Roast; Edgewood Acres block sale, Chili Cook-off, May Market

Not so Great

- Lack of neighborhood schools/lack of a gathering place
- No tree burning, shut down my county but could it be replaced with something?
- No fireworks

### Ardmore Blvd. and Business Area

Great

- Beulah Road PNC closing
- Models: Regent Square, Squirrel Hill, Oakmont, Lawrenceville, Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon
- Non-model: McNight Rd.

Not so Great

- Too many empty store fronts
- Parking on Ardmore Blvd.
- Traffic speed
- Shopping area outdated
- Need - bakeries, coffee shop, sandwich shop, breweries, bike friendly areas, food co-op, arts and crafts gallery - we want to attract local businesses rather than chains
- Do we need an art commission?

If You Could Do Anything (money is not an issue)

- Community garden/orchard
- Pedestrian bridge
- History commission
- Arts and culture commission
- Westinghouse/technology/communications museum
- Ardmore Blvd. - 2 lanes
- Atom Smasher restored
- Create an endowment for the pool and parks
- Become a technical incubator, perhaps in conjunction with a university
- Market FH - need a group and a plan
- Extend the shopping district