

North St. Paul Comprehensive Plan
 Summary of Community Cafes

Topic	Question	Major Themes/Comments/Ideas
Land use and development	From a housing perspective, what about NSP makes it appealing to an existing or prospective resident? Are the neighborhoods here attractive to current and future residents? What could make them better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to walk to school • Love the "small town" feel of the downtown area. Wish there were sidewalks the entire length of 7th Ave.
	What amenities (like parks, sidewalks, transit, shopping, services) attract people to your neighborhood? Is it welcoming to all prospective residents? What would make it more attractive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts are separated and don't communicate with one another • Accessible support services near senior housing • Gateways (old tap and grill, anchor block, etc.) are not good representation of community
	North St. Paul has a unique asset in its historic downtown that many other cities in the region do not have. How can the city maintain and improve the vibrancy of its downtown so that it is a place for residents to visit, shop, eat and enjoy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore buildings and upgrade building facades to create inviting feel • Increase programming like fairs, shows, and festivals • Create a central park or gathering space with seating
	Imagine you are Henry Castle in 1887--a visionary looking to start a city. In 130 years (today), what would you want North St. Paul to look like? What sorts of things does the city need? What goes in the mix? Where should these things go? What do we need to change to get to that ideal mix?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown placed closer to Silver Lake (connection between downtown and the best natural resources) • Margaret to be more like a gateway/parkway with trolley • Community space • Maintain/invest in existing properties
Housing	From a housing perspective, what about NSP makes it appealing to an existing or prospective resident? Are the neighborhoods here attractive to current and future residents? What could make them better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Senior housing - can't afford to live there • There is a mix, which is good - getting more variety for seniors • Most is older - which makes it good for starter homes
	If your aunt or uncle (or niece or nephew) asked you to describe North St. Paul, what would you say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town, with aging population and houses. • Some areas of the city have well maintained houses, while others are degrading and poorly kept.
	Imagine you are Henry Castle in 1887 - a visionary looking to start a city. In 130 years (today), what would you want North St. Paul to look like? What sorts of things does the city need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better maintained homes • Housing above the businesses downtown, near downtown • Not all senior and affordable - nice places

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	<p>What do we need to change to get to that ideal mix? Where should these changes and additions happen?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apartments on either end of downtown to provide to customers within walking distance to downtown businesses (right now apartments are within walking distance to big box stores) • Attractive multi-family housing • Condos or townhomes in the place of crummy apartments (owners vs renters)
	<p>What amenities (like parks, sidewalks, transit, shopping, services) attract people to your neighborhood? Is it welcoming to all prospective residents? What would make it more attractive?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop isolating seniors - more overall vision
	<p>What challenges do you see for housing in NSP? Is our housing appropriate for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and incomes? Do you think housing here meets all housing needs? If not, what needs are we currently not meeting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses are getting old - not always upkeep • Does age of houses turn off millennials? • Are homes technologically capable? • Lacking market rate apartments with amenities • Just built senior housing - not affordable for everyone, • Affordable housing might not have all of the desirable amenities • Housing maintenance/replacement of older homes • Lack of small scale multi-housing (i.e. duplexes) • Difficult to incorporate downtown housing (noise, traffic) • Lower median pricing - affordable types of housing • Older homes limited accessibility • Housing challenge is availability • Housing will be outdated due to technology - smart home • Potential turnover (demo small home in the lot)
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>What amenities (like parks, sidewalks, transit, shopping, services) attract people to your neighborhood? Is it welcoming to all prospective residents? What would make it more attractive?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs a grocery store • Still a need to figure out what "downtown" wants to be in the future • Need to take care of infrastructure to attract businesses and residents • More take out and sit down restaurants • We offer a lot...Need to promote events • Lots of vacant retail storefronts

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	What are North St. Paul's strengths that we can build on into the future? And what are our weaknesses that we need to change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the existing industry (Cabinets, Burwell) in North St. Paul, and encourage new types to come in • Medical industry
	What systems and supports (and partnerships) does North St. Paul need to ensure we are in a place to seize new business and changing economy over the next 5 to 10 to 20 years?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax incentives, tax relief to new businesses • Create a long-range plan for how to support businesses and improve infrastructure/transportation • A strong business association or EDA • Use social media and marketing to draw people in
	What challenges do you see for housing in NSP? Is our housing appropriate for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and incomes? Do you think housing here meets all housing needs? If not, what needs are we currently not meeting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty businesses • More low income housing could mean more businesses that are lower quality • Missing technology: Fiber optic, solar/alternative energy • Need to decide if NSP is an industrial vs residential city
Parks and Trails	From a housing perspective, what about NSP makes it appealing to an existing or prospective resident? Are the neighborhoods here attractive to current and future residents? What could make them better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature trees • Silver Lake • Invest in parks and green spaces • Parks, nature preserve, place for kids to go • Parks are good for young families and add value to neighborhoods
	If your aunt or uncle (or niece or nephew) asked you to describe North St. Paul, what would you say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of parks
	Imagine you are Henry Castle in 1887--a visionary looking to start a city. In 130 years (today), what would you want North St. Paul to look like? What sorts of things does the city need? What goes in the mix? Where should these things go?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the shoreline - like they did in the past by not selling off all the land on Silver Lake for private development • Variety of recreation areas, large to small • Dog park
	What does the City need? What do we need to change to get to that ideal mix? Where should these changes and additions happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better connectivity between parks • Splash pad by the lake

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	<p>What amenities (like parks, sidewalks, transit, shopping, services) attract people to your neighborhood? Is it welcoming to all prospective residents? What would make it more attractive?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks are good for neighborhoods (13) • Bring landmarks/artifacts to parks to draw visitors, create an international park • Casey Lake Park (2) • Businesses that serve parks and trails (rentals for bikes, fishing poles, canoes) • Create walking paths around pond, add more sidewalks in general • Walking trail is an asset • Parks/trails -- huge draw • Tower Park • Gateway Trail
	<p>What are North St. Paul's strengths that we can build on into the future? And what are our weaknesses that we need to change?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver lake - clean up weeds • Group to take ownership of the snowman, park around the snowman • Downtown and parks, make sure we are connecting to other cities as well • Gateway trail
	<p>Are there specific amenities that you think would be attractive to potential residents that our park system should have?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches in the center of town, the gateway trail, at the snowman • Splash pad • Upgrades to the Casey Lake building including blinds and sound insulation • Park space in downtown • Signage for walking and biking trails
	<p>What challenges do you see for housing in NSP? Is our housing appropriate for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and incomes? Do you think housing here meets all housing needs? If not, what needs are we currently not meeting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks open space vs more suburban areas
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>From a housing perspective, what about NSP makes it appealing to an existing or prospective resident? Are the neighborhoods here attractive to current and future residents? What could make them better?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to freeways, Metro Transit routes, great location (3) • More streetlights needed (particularly at 13th and McKnight) – 2 responses • Working together to collaborate to plow snow • Noise from traffic/motorcycles downtown hinders apartments nearby

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	Imagine you are Henry Castle in 1887--a visionary looking to start a city. In 130 years (today), what would you want North St. Paul to look like? What sorts of things does the city need? What goes in the mix? Where should these things go?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct transit to downtown St. Paul • Plan all streets with sidewalks off the bat • Bike lanes • Subway system • Street car • No skyways
	What amenities (like parks, sidewalks, transit, shopping, services) attract people to your neighborhood? Is it welcoming to all prospective residents? What would make it more attractive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend Nice Ride to NSP • LED lighting is not sufficient • Transportation - especially for seniors or people who need to get to work and don't have a car. Shuttle services • Roads could be nicer • Sections are walkable - lack of planning with sidewalks
	How big a priority is walking and/or biking for you and your family? Are there any gaps in the system that prevent you getting where you want to go? Are there barriers? Is there anything that would help you to walk or bike more?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase crosswalk signage, including midblock crossings • Sidewalks end abruptly, sometimes midblock • Many cited sidewalk gaps • Connect major destinations including downtown, the nature preserve, the snowman, Silver Lake, DQ, Target, Casey Lake, and the Greenway
	What challenges do you see for housing in NSP? Is our housing appropriate for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and incomes? Do you think housing here meets all housing needs? If not, what needs are we currently not meeting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transportation options • Disconnected sidewalks • Lack of sidewalks - winter hard to get around
Implementation and Other	From a housing perspective, what about NSP makes it appealing to an existing or prospective resident? Are the neighborhoods here attractive to current and future residents? What could make them better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet (2) • Hometown/small town feel/friendly (5) • Car show (4) • Diversity (3)
	What are North St. Paul's strengths that we can build on into the future? And what are our weaknesses that we need to change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational school • Arts (committee for community art) • downtown. churches. parks. sidewalks. • good police / fire department

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	<p>What challenges do you see for housing in NSP? Is our housing appropriate for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and incomes? Do you think housing here meets all housing needs? If not, what needs are we currently not meeting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of crime hinders people wanting to buy here • Attractive to college students/young professionals: technology, restaurants, things to do, bike paths • Incorporating different populations across city/neighborhoods • Need a place to go for city information: kiosks, wayfinding signs • Rental library - for equipment vs buying • Fences • Attracts a specific family size/income
	<p>What do you think should be the City's priorities with regard to sustainability, the environment, and resiliency to climate change?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep water local • Solar energy—used for street lights, LED lighting • Maintain parks, and increase park space as housing is built • Balance sustainability and affordability