



GREENWICH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Student Workshop Summary

Project Number: 222123.02

Location: GCS High School Media Center

Date: November 15, 2022

Time: 8:10 AM

Workshop Summary:

Representatives of LaBella Associates facilitated a visioning workshop with Greenwich High School AP Politics students. The workshop began with a brief presentation describing the planning field and the Comprehensive Plan process. The class then broke into four facilitated groups for focused discussions on Greenwich's strengths and weaknesses and what their vision for the future of Greenwich. A representative from each group presented key takeaways to the class. The workshop wrapped up with a discussion of "SWOT" analyses. A summary of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats the students identified is provided below.

Strengths:

- Safe
- Strong sense of community
- History/historic buildings on Main Street
- Nice place to grow up
- Local events (Whipple City, Halloween Parade, Tractor Parade)
- School system
- Library
- Small town feel
- Parks
- Well-maintained homes
- Hiking and natural areas

Weakness

- Lack of businesses/restaurants
- Empty underutilized buildings



- Not much to do/places to go (need to leave for them)
- Lots of auto parts stores
- Infrastructure/road quality (outskirts + Main Street potholes), and slow to fix
- Lack of diversity in local business types
- Narrow roads/parking on both sides of Main Street making driving difficult/unsafe
- Sidewalks in poor condition
- Difficulty for small businesses to survive
- Not very dog friendly (no dog parks)

Opportunities

- More activities for younger people/teens (single-screen movie theater, bowling alley, local basketball court, or cafe)
- Better advertise/mark parks
- Swimming pool at the YMCA
- Invest in the park system
- Businesses marketed to young people
- Off-street parking (& remove parking on Main to have more space for vehicles)
- Former Greenwich Town Beach (improving accessibility & programming – food trucks? Concerts?)
- More community events
- Dog park
- Streetscape improvements at southern end of Main Street & in Mill Hollow

Threats

- Larger trucks coming into Greenwich/downtown
- Big box stores
- Too expensive to move back to
- Speeding vehicles