



Public Knowledge

UNDERSTANDING

The Chesterfield Township Library, in seeking to hold a deep knowledge of our community, considered with intention the shared aspirations and concerns of residents, to authentically reflect the lives of people in our community and seek their best interests, and be accountable for promises made to our neighbors. The Library holds a unique resource sharing role in our community as both a gatherer and provider of information, and by extension, the Library has turned outward to more deeply understand Chesterfield Township.

Between November 2016 and December 2017, the Chesterfield Township Library held ten Community Conversations with residents and leaders of different ages and sectors throughout Chesterfield Township. We engaged with over 120 individuals from local businesses, community organizations, schools, students, parents, and government agencies. These conversations were based on the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation initiative to consider the fundamental question, “What kind of community do you want to live in?” Through understanding the aspirations of our community members, we can identify goals, address concerns and barriers to accomplishing these goals, learn who is trusted to bring about improvements, and create the kind of change that builds a thriving community.

ASPIRATIONS

Chesterfield residents want a welcoming community where people are closely bonded, where they can come together with friendliness, neighborliness and trust for each other.

We want a community where people feel pride for our town, where we continually improve our township, where we help one another, and have fun at the same time.

CONTENTS

Understanding.....	1
Aspirations	1
Aspirations	2
Main Concerns	2
Main Concerns	3
Trust	3
Actions.....	3
Future.....	4

PREPARED BY CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY 2018

- Equal Access
- Educational Partner
- Economic Driver
- Community Engagement

Population: 44,648
(SEMCOG July 2017)

Total Households: 16,710
(ACS 2015)

With Children: 37%
2+ Without Children: 40%
Live Alone <65: 16%
Live Alone, 65+: 7%
(ACS 2015)

ASPIRATIONS

We want an inclusive, diverse community with equal opportunities for education and personal growth.

Residents value quality of life, including opportunities for adults and children, community events, and a variety of outdoor activities.

Citizens want a peaceful, organized community with leadership that is honest, scandal-free, transparent, and effectively communicates.

We want a community with better public transport, walkable spaces, and sidewalks with crosswalks.

Residents value strong infrastructure including good public services such as public safety, reliable trash pickup, roads, bridges, well-lit streets, and sustainable rebuilding and revitalization.

We want a community with a downtown area feel, and a single location for Township offices, community recreation center, library, and police and fire departments.

Residents value a community center with a space that brings people together, where they can freely discuss views and opinions.

“Individuals are empowered with support and then are able to support others.”

“A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other’s lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.”

—Wendell Berry

MAIN CONCERNS

Residents feel safe in Chesterfield and value having their own police and fire departments as opposed to contracting with the County. Areas of concern include the need for safer roadways with sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians, and better lighting along corridors like Gratiot Avenue.

Residents want leadership with a vision for the future of the community. People want a clear message that builds momentum and gives residents a shared purpose to rally around. At the same time, residents require transparent government and responsible resource management.

Residents go to other communities for better services that improve their quality of life such as community and cultural events where people experience connection, swimming pools, recreation centers, contemporary libraries, well-equipped parks, community centers, and meeting room spaces.

Residents seek a community identity. People described challenges including the need for community involvement, volunteer opportunities, convincing others that ideas are good, and persuading naysayers with an unwillingness to pay for improvements.



Our Town

MAIN CONCERNS

Residents are concerned about the physical constraints of Chesterfield Township. The presence of Interstate 94 (I-94) bisects the community with hazardous bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the crossover of 23-Mile Road, high traffic roadways such as 23-Mile Road and Gratiot Avenue negatively impact walkability, and the Salt River limits the extension of bicycle paths. This physical disconnect leads to a social disconnect as well.

Residents desire better communication, including communication from the Township regarding decision making and planning updates, and about the Township's events and activities.

Residents need opportunities to participate in short-term volunteer commitments. However, there is a lack of coordination and even visibility to organizations that serve the community. Organizations prefer to work alone in silos rather than open themselves to community partnerships.

WHO DO WE TRUST TO TAKE ACTION?

Anchor Bay Community Foundation	Chesterfield Township
Churches	Library
Police	Schools

ACTIONS THAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Provide a suggestion box or website form for feedback.

Connect the Chesterfield bicycle path to Macomb-Orchard Trail and Metro Parkway Trail.

Pursue public beach development at Brandenburg Park.

Attract a Trader Joe's or healthier alternative grocer.

Secure federal land for park and community development.

Host a single source for publicizing township information.

Create incentives and diverse business opportunities.

Provide more free events.

Analyze comparative data with thriving communities.

Form partnerships between government and civic organizations to work together for community events.

Provide a central place for community organizations to share information about volunteer opportunities that help people find a place to connect.

Foster the value of community in individuals' lives.

Facilitate diversity training and workshops.

Equip staff with customer service training.

Embrace change that improves our community.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

50560 PATRICIA AVE.

CHESTERFIELD, MI 48051

The mission of the Chesterfield Township Library is to enrich our community with unlimited opportunities for learning and discovery through excellence in services, resources, and cultural programs.

The Chesterfield Township Library was established by voters on November 8, 1994.

Libraries transform communities.

FUTURE

Residents of Chesterfield Township care deeply about our home and community. We want our town to be friendly and welcoming, improving and thriving. Residents want to feel a connection with their neighbors and leaders. We value our quality of life, including a healthy active lifestyle, and are willing to work with other individuals and organizations to improve our community. Residents recognize the uncommon beauty of the Anchor Bay area and seek to expand access to rivers and lakes, and bicycle paths and walkways that bridge barriers to connection. While there are challenges, residents are ready to join the momentum, lay the groundwork, set the path and advance the direction that leads to future opportunities.

Community Conversations

