

THERMOPOLIS PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS

1. What changes would you like to see in Thermopolis?

- More employment opportunities (2)
- Growth to about 4,000 population
- Better upkeep of rental housing
- Some growth without losing small-town atmosphere
- Friendlier retail merchants
- The proposed Discovery Center
- More public involvement in town beautification
- Improvements to streets and alleys
- Better retail shopping
- Better cooperative marketing effort for tourism, commerce, education, and retirement
- More retirement communities and facilities
- The business park take off
- Increase population to historical levels through managed growth
- Low income housing
- Community partnership between all local stakeholders
- Solid infrastructure
- Vital downtown
- Traffic signal at 6th and Amoretti streets.
- Less regulation on development
- Enforcement of junk and weed laws
- Emphasis on public works needs instead of special-interest projects
- Improved pedestrian access to river

2. What would you like to see remain the same in Thermopolis?

- Attitude of the people (friendly, helpful, openness) (3)
- Medical facilities and services (3)
- Small-town, rural atmosphere (2)
- Good schools (2)
- Beauty of the town and surroundings
- Continue to have an airport
- Working relationship between town, county, E. Thermopolis, Kirby
- Pride in the downtown area and most neighborhoods
- Library
- State park
- Slow, controlled growth
- Strong ties between town and park
- Low crime rate, little vandalism
- Support for youth (through school, recreation, Lights On program)

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3. What are the most important needs in Thermopolis?

- Improved infrastructure (4)
- Good paying jobs (2)
- Housing in \$150-200,000 range
- Workforce training
- Marketing the advantages of Thermopolis
- Managed growth
- Housing
- Recreation for youth
- Weed control
- Clothing store
- Solid waste district for landfill
- Convention center (sized for approximately 400 people)
- More competitive retail businesses
- Stronger local economy with more emphasis on retirement and tourism
- More variety in shopping opportunities
- More child- and retiree-friendly town
- Commercial and industrial development

4. With regard to the growth and development of Thermopolis, what changes do you expect will happen over the next 10 to 20 years?

- New airport (3)
- Recreation center (2)
- New Discovery Center (2)
- No growth
- Additional housing growth
- Additional commercial growth
- New hospital (maybe)
- Development of hillside near Roundtop
- Need to change town zoning because of growth of business areas
- Adequate housing
- New senior center
- Addition of light industry
- Small amount of growth
- Larger or more schools
- Annexation to the south
- Bus station
- Development of old refinery site
- No growth except for annexation

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5. What goals should Thermopolis have with regard to future growth?

- Updated infrastructure to allow for growth and development (2)
- Convention Center
- Relax codes for convenience of homeowners
- Double amount of retirement and assisted living facilities in 10-15 years
- Ensure housing needs are met to allow businesses to locate here
- Increased industry
- Consider annexation
- Sensible rules with more common sense
- Solid waste district
- Upgrade or install sidewalks throughout town
- Become a spa/health center and convention center
- Ensure employment by keeping local businesses
- Ordinances need to be followed

6. What are the most significant obstacles to growth and development in Thermopolis?

- Lack of decent/affordable housing (2)
- Lack of jobs (2)
- Not willing to accept ideas from outsiders
- Attitude of city - inflexibility with rules
- Money for improvements and marketing
- Transportation
- Reluctance of lifetime residents to change
- Finances
- Amount of vacant building lots
- Limited workforce
- Too many businesses afraid of competition
- Lack of available commercial real estate
- Remote location
- The "good old boy" attitude
- Lack of skilled labor
- Not shopping locally
- Satisfaction with status quo
- Reluctance of many citizens to get involved
- Disagreement among community leaders
- Infrastructure
- Lack of shopping (malls, Walmart, etc.)
- Half of town population doesn't want any growth at all.

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7. What are Thermopolis's greatest assets for fostering growth and development?

- State Park (4)
- Schools (2)
- Medical services & facilities (2)
- Recreation of all types (2)
- Beautiful place to live and work (2)
- Churches (2)
- Friendly town (2)
- Small town atmosphere
- Town has a lot to offer for tourism and retirement industries
- Town is small enough that most destinations are within walking distance
- Library
- Great tax benefits for homeowners and businesses
- Youth activities
- High quality of life
- Willingness to work
- Dinosaur Center
- Gottsche Center
- Motels
- Fresh ideas
- Younger people are becoming involved
- Town has available space
- Town has a lot resources including politicians with local ties
- Some "classy" stores
- Hardworking people

8. To what extent should Thermopolis citizens be involved in creating the town plan?

- Open house meeting with opportunities for the public to give written comments
- Provide input and review final product
- Civic groups could be tapped for ideas
- Send a survey to all people in town, E. Thermopolis and county
- Very involve: when citizens are participating in a plan, they have "buy in"
- Somewhat! Would like to see involvement from people concerned with best interests of the town not own special wants
- To many people involve with plan creation will create problems
- The more who feel ownership, the better
- 51% and no more
- More than they are now (no one seems to care enough)
- Need to separate logical, well thought out comments from those with axe to grind or personal gain

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9. Additional comments:

Thermopolis is a great little town. Very little crime. Many great facilities. A tremendous amount for young people to do. A community that can really pull together with someone is in need or someone gets a mission to something done, but if not there is a lot of apathy. Half the population wants a small amount of growth and half wants none at all. Great place to raise a family. People love to come to Thermopolis to visit and for conventions.

The master plan needs to reflect well for the town, but needs to be realistic, not pie in the sky.

This is a good way to get ideas and get people interested. Things like the jobs of the stand at the fairgrounds sitting there this long and not being worked out. Soon people quit trying to do anything.

Being a "people pleaser" does not foster change and growth. Thermopolis frequently hires outside the town and spend the money for assessment and plans - the discounts the input from those they hire.