



2026 Northfield, MN Community Survey Question 25 Comments

Presented to the City of
Northfield, Minnesota

March 2026



Q25. If you have suggestions for improving the quality of city programs, facilities, or services, please share your suggestions.

- 1) You need a city forester or natural resource specialist. You should have been more proactive about protecting city trees from EAB and getting the word out to residents to preserve their shade. There are dead ash all over now, and we also had an incident where a large group of native trees and shrubs were "accidentally " removed from adjacent city property (a nice privacy screen) by a crew because they thought they were buckthorn.2) you need to get more tax dollars from the colleges and promote more development. We are a \$200,000 income family and our property taxes and homeowners insurance have gone up over \$600 PER MONTH since we moved here 3 years ago. Affordability is a major issue here. We are not new homeowners - lived in Hennepin County for 13 years and the steep local and county property taxes are literally making people move, you need to diversify your tax base now (more like 10 years ago). 3) Your water treatment center was not approved yet we dealt with construction for months on the pipes to connect water to the WTC in the future, We have hard water here and most people already have softeners. We replaced ours along with the reverse osmosis system. It would be more affordable to the city to offer grants to rodent who have babies/toddlers affected my manganese than build your plant, I'm sure it's more expensive to have the entire city on a reverse osmosis system. You need to give people a break with taxes it is literally causing people to flee. We love this community but are already planning our downsizing and possible exit due to costs.
- A lot of weeds growing within sidewalks.
- A tale of 2 perspectives: As a new resident, the number of citizens who express concern about the City and City Council not listening to the citizens has been surprising. They are most concerned with feeling misunderstood, especially about the ice arena. We love living here and say so every day. We moved here because of the values we could see demonstrated by the city - the bike paths being a big part of that, which we have learned was QUITE the contentious decision. The parks I have discovered walking our dogs had only added to that initial impression in a positive way. As a former communications professional, I know you can do everything short of personally speaking to each person and still have people say they didn't know something was happening. I am still working on finding the best channel of communication for me, but the customer service each time I've needed it has been great. We appreciate our city and our City employees! Thanks for helping make this a great new home. We love it here.
- Act on our input.
- Add a disc golf course
- Addressing potholes would be great. Our property tax burden has made our home more difficult to comfortably afford.
- Allow taxpayers to go to utilize the new ice rink.
- As retired tax paying community members, it is becoming increasingly difficult to afford to live here, which is maybe what you want. It is beginning to feel like a wealthy privilege setting, which is sad. Suggestion? Work within your means and if that means less bike lanes, than so be it! Rising taxes and the cost of living is out of control!
- Baby swings at every park
- Be more careful with spending money. Think of the citizens quality of life.
- Better communication about what is happening is needed. Including information about local political candidates.
- Better communication in all aspects of city governance. Take out the bumps on the bicycle lanes - the gap where the Archer House was is an eyesore. Rebuild or make it a parking lot.

- Better plowed and sanded streets and residential neighborhoods.
- Better publication of activities and city services. Recycling day should be held in spring and fall.
- Better street lights
- Biggest thing: TREES TREES TREES - city should provide (at cost perhaps) and emphasize tree planting across the community - look for boulevards, empty lots, corners, streetscapes that could handle trees. Line up volunteers to PLANT THEM every spring and fall. The city horticulturist should not be out weeding with two hourly helpers - poor investment. Have the professional recruit, train and coordinate volunteer teams to weed/maintain/plant streets and parks in their neighborhoods. City could be divided into 6-8 neighborhoods with 25-50 volunteers each to rotate monthly to care for their neighborhood. Civic pride, community-building, beautification of our town. Ditch bicycle commuting as a priority - recreational biking is more important. Biking solutions for Mpls or St. Paul aren't necessary in Northfield. Just have well maintained, interconnected bike trails that minimize the necessity of road biking and keep kids safe going to school, downtown, parks, etc. Get serious about addressing neglected properties around town. And for pete's sake, 48 hour limit on items on boulevards. I'm sick of seeing snow-covered couches no one wants. Don't let residential streets get so far gone - example, the east side 8th & 9th, college st area was years overdue before it finally was addressed. Inexcusable. Connect all walking paths and increase riverwalk mileage. It's the most interesting natural feature of our town - emphasize & maximize it!!
- Bike lanes are a waste of money. I do not see them used, and the roads are not wide enough for them.
- Bike lanes are overdone and too expensive to put in curbs, etc. Well maintained and connected painted lanes are best for all of us.
- Bike lanes waste of money. Stop using same road work company. They are a joke and do slow work
- Bike paths were wasteful & largely unused. Stop it! We do not need a water treatment facility for the small number of residents with baby's. Stop efforts to place modular housing (mobile homes) mixed into single family developments. City boulevards and parks need weed and feed. The look terribly bad.
- Bike trails and lanes need to be maintained properly. No new construction should be permitted.
- Budget cuts to make the city livable for anyone who is not upper middle class or higher income.
- Cancel the ice Arena or change it to a community center. Some of the parks could use a facelift like Way Park. Affordable senior housing options.
- Cats should not be allowed to roam. Feral cats should be trapped and removed.
- City Hall, the departments/services within the building. Are there for the people of Northfield. The hours available to the public should be Monday through Friday 7 AM to 5 PM throughout the year. Essentially not closed on Fridays at noon.
- City leaders need to not only listen to, but act on comments from residents. The "bike lane issue" is the most glaring example where city leaders appeared to plow (dig?) ahead regardless of constructive input. A city our size does not need the extreme separation of bicycle and car traffic. I commute to work by bike, and completely ignore the current bike routing in some parts of the city because it is actually MORE dangerous to be biking on the same routes/sidewalks where people walk their dogs, push strollers, etc. Also, the crazy dual bike lanes with complicated routing and signs (that no-one pays attention to) along some major streets are functionally ridiculous. Perhaps they looked good in a GIS program, but they don't work in practice.
- City needs to focus on small businesses and the citizens who work and provide added value to life and pursuit of health and happiness.

- City organizations have "personal agendas". Bump outs are not always the safest.
- City parks are very poor considering overall quality of life in Northfield. There needs to be an underpass or bridge for pedestrians at Greenvale Ave and 3rd or St Olaf Ave and 3rd for safety.
- City water treatment
- City, staff and elective officials are working hard to meet residents needs
- Cleanup issues with people dumping used items everywhere. Ensure roads are wide enough for all weather conditions, and traffic.-cars, buses, etc.-when adding bike lanes.
- Communication about these resources should not assume technology equally available. Send important information via mail and or a flyer.
- Community Ed programs are very expensive making them not an option for my kids. There needs to be a free indoor Rec center for tweens and teens to hang out at. There isn't anywhere for middle school kids to hang out with their friends. The majority of shops in town close by 6. The town feels dead at night.
- Continue updating parks and making housing affordable for public employees (my wife and I work in schools).
- Cost versus value. Cost of housing, taxes, and other expenses. Blue-collar middle America cannot afford Northfield.
- Crossing at Highway three needs to be addressed. Perhaps a bridge over the highway. The current flashing lights are not working and very dangerous.
- Develop and approve more business to ease tax burden is #1. Nothing else even close to
- Dislike the new curb bike lanes. Paint is all that is needed.
- Do a better job with snow plowing.
- Do not cut down trees to make sidewalks in neighborhoods. Please decrease property taxes. They are too high.
- Do not install bike lanes and improve the riverfront
- Do not put curbs on the street side of the bike lanes. Do not put "bump out" corners or corners with tall vegetation near intersections. Both block driver visibility of pedestrians and bikes.
- Dump the ice Arena and put the money towards the water plant.
- Efforts to make roads, bicycle-friendly have made them unfriendly for normal traffic and parking needs. Police need to uphold the law and not allow heckler's to interfere with free speech. They also need to follow the traffic laws themselves. Those who do not use the public school system should not be forced to pay for it.
- Eliminate use of bicycle lanes built into existing roadways. Instead of adding hazards into roadways convert sidewalks into trails.
- Enforce outside storage ordinances. Improve residential road maintenance on all roads in town, not just the ones close in where the townies live. Police should keep all people in Northfield safe from ICE activities and assure that federal and states laws and the Constitution is protected from government overreach. We have enough bike lanes. Reduce expensive, unnecessary public projects that benefit only the loudest complainers, such as the hockey area. Try limiting the city council's need to tax the crap out of us, and spend financial resources more efficiently. All major financial matters involving public services should assure adequate citizen input, the council does not always act reasonably in this regard and seem to foist every personal preference upon the citizens. SLOW DOWN AND ALLOW CITIZEN CONTROL OF COUNCIL'S PLANS. LEARN TO LIVE WITH WHAT WE HAVE, AND REALLY NEED, AS A SMALL CITY. ACT HONESTLY ON BEHALF OF ALL CITIZENS, NOT JUST SPECIAL INTERESTS.
- enforce traffic laws ! the guys in big trucks w no muffler flying down division (headed south) in the summer is outrageous. zero enforcement of noise ordinances or speed limit.

- Enforce vehicle noise laws.
- Enough with building bike lanes that are rarely used and pushing through expensive building projects without letting the voters having a say, IE the hockey arena.
- Enough with the bike lanes please! I feel plenty safe riding my bike on the side of the road. Use that money for fun things for the kids to do across the city. Parks, fountains, sculptures, etc.
- Existing bike trail maintenance is important. New bike lanes riding against traffic does not feel safe and turns can be dangerous as helmet bike mirrors are on the left side for road riding. Cross overs at different locations are also confusing.
- Expedited replacement of ash trees.
- Find a way to attract more and diverse stores to downtown area.
- Find the inconsistency of types of bike lanes confusing and frustrating both as a driver and biker. A more consistent style of bike lanes would be beneficial and easier to navigate.
- Fix potholes, add street lighting, deal with the drug issue, police need to do more and inform the public regarding problems and outcomes.
- Fix the roads and make Jefferson Park Way wider. And less bike lanes.
- Fix the streets, sidewalks, fewer bike paths
- Focus on fixing the streets and stop adding sidewalks.
- For years we've heard and talked about economic development. It's time to make it happen. Let's have a plan that can be backed up to bring business to Northfield. Let's work more positively to work with and support the local developers who live here and care about the community. Expensive projects that pay dividends to the community will not happen without monetary support from the city. Let's get the Archer building built and bring people back into the downtown.
- Get city spending under control. Taxes are way too high.
- Get rid of bike lanes and put up signs that say share the road
- Get rid of the raised bike lanes and make our streets wider for more parking. Also, change the bike riding lanes back to one on each side of the street as it should have been planned...not different on each street we bike on. When out of town friends visit, they cannot believe what has happened to our city streets. So sad for our great town. Also, we need an immediate emphasis on commercial and industrial development as our first priority for our city. We need to bring paying tax base to Northfield so our home and downtown businesses can survive.
- Get snow plows that don't push snow on driveways or sidewalks or crosswalks. Fix potholes every spring.
- Get the cement dividers out of the roads. Put signs up by water reservoir to dispose of dog waste, responsibly and not clean their grassy area and dump it there.
- Have frequent public meetings where all citizens can speak.
- Have police follow the law. Quit parking in no parking zone in the dark with lights off on hwy 19W or hwy 3N. No more GHOST stickers so cars can't be seen easily. That is not visibility when you want to flag an officer down.
- I always think about how the city can serve the children.
- I am an avid bike rider, but do not want any more city bike lanes created. It's not needed. It's expensive and dangerous.
- I am in favor of on street bike lanes with the lane of traffic on both sides or off street trails if it makes sense. Makes sense means there is adequate land available and they don't have to cut down trees. Along Jefferson Pkwy seems to make sense, but Maple Street was a terrible idea. Two lanes on one side of the street or protected lanes don't make sense for Northfield. I've been biking all my life and riding with traffic on the right side of the road is fine. I also think the city

needs more resources to maintain what they have. Many trees and brush are overgrown on residential roadways.

- I appreciate all you do to keep us a desirable place to live however, please slow down. The rate of property tax increases.
- I do use bike lanes in Northfield frequently, but they are not well-kept or easy to navigate, so why bother? I would rather see more funds spent on improvements in streets used by all residents rather than providing additional bike lanes.
- I don't think we need any more dedicated bike routes on streets. General public education on safe bikers and education of drivers. Bikes have a right to be on the roads.
- I feel some developers take advantage of the city. Seeing the empty archer house footprint is frustrating.
- I have always been impressed with how much the citizens of this community try to make life good here. Thanks to everyone
- I live near Spring Creek School, and use many of the most common methods of getting around town. I feel like the changes to Maple over the past several years have made things less safe for both drivers and bicyclists. A good example is riding a bike north on Maple toward Carleton College: first one is in a lane almost, but not quite, on the far left, then dumped into the intersection at Woodley on the wrong side of the road, and in the midst of drivers who are confused about how correctly and safely to turn south on Maple. After Woodley, the bike lane shifts over to the right, to share with motor vehicles (I think that the message on the road, with an image of a bike, and the letters "BLVD" stands for "bike like vultures descending"; i.e., "swoop around slowly, with a vague sense of foreboding in the air.") Maple becomes Nevada, and the bike lane changes yet again a few blocks farther north, as there is a separate, painted bike lane, over on the wrong side of the road again. One other form of locomotion that has trended less safe over the years: I regularly run on the roads around town, because the sidewalks have too many obstacles for those of us who can still go a little faster than walking pace, and the various features meant to calm the traffic also confound the road runner, and force us to leap curbs or encroach sometimes on the roadway instead of the shoulder.
- I signed up for what I thought were email updates. Never received anything. Could have been an error on my part.
- I still haven't seen 50 N or the CAC on here yet...
- I think Northfield taxes are way too high and it is too expensive for many people to live here. I would love to see city spending out in check, stop spending on the consultants who want to remodel our city, and for a large audit to be done to find ways to save money. I think the city should focus on essential services like road maintenance, and stop trying to do large projects like 5th & Washington/bridge square remodel, expensive water treatment etc. We need to get back to basics and spend within our means.
- I think the bike lane situation is out of control, inconsistent, too expensive and confusing. Northfield is expensive and getting less affordable every year.
- I think the web site is clunky - improving a little, yet the system doesn't feel nimble. If we can do a better job at communication via a variety of mechanisms, that would be welcome. I applaud the contributions to NAFRS and the support for capital equipment that improves safety in the community; thanks to Chief Nelson for the re-organization that continues to yield positive results as well as welcoming broader community members to apply for service to the department. Similarly, I appreciate the work of local law enforcement in working to hire a more diverse set of officers, for their collaborative spirit with the local higher education institutions and neighborhoods, and for their thoughtful engagement. I'd love to see some additional bike/walking

patrols and even talking to residents about how traffic separation can yield improved safety to non-motorized means of transit. Transit is another area I would like to see improved. Specifically, I would like to see more signage along bus routes, timing listings, and shelters put into place (that could be relocated as routes change) to enable more to utilize those transit options. Lastly, continued work on the railroad corridor is beneficial and I would love to see continued efforts to remove the at-grade nature of the route at Hwy-19 as well as prepare for regional rail options.

- I think we overdid it on the bicycle paths on the roads Just more property tax we are having to pay EACH year. Property tax is just outrageous for in this town. I swear it almost doubled since I have been living here. One of the negative things about Northfield.
- I understand everything has gotten more expensive recently, but anything we can do to use tax dollars efficiently should be discussed. Local colleges and businesses should contribute more towards shared community spaces through private investment
- I want all of the things listed in question 19 but with sidewalks, not bike lanes. I grew up walking and riding bikes on sidewalks.
- I want to see more gardens and plantings in our city parks. Tall trees, shrubs, and flowers. Leave the large trees in the parks and add more. Grass and rocks aren't very interesting and don't provide any shade or engagement with nature. I am glad that we have parks and I want them to be beautiful.
- I would like to see a waterpark installed, increased commercial investments, and no further tax increases for at least five years. Too many businesses are failing/flipping outside of the downtown area.
- I would like to see lime taken out of the water. All sidewalks should be plowed by the city since more people are walking. Remove bike lanes that have an irrational design.
- Improve communication, improve parking downtown.
- Improve drinking water taste, and lower price grocery store.
- Improve or make a new dog park. Heat Old Memorial Pool. More place to drop off dog poop bags.
- Install no parking signs on the north side of W. 2nd St.
- Invest in our downtown to make it a destination. Maintain streets and mow grass.
- Invest more in 50 North. It keeps your retirement people healthy and happy. They pay a large portion of city taxes.
- Involve citizens and decision-making where their properties are impacted.
- It needs to be safer to cross Highway 19 and Highway 3. Cars ignore pedestrians. Put in some speed bumps as cars routinely go faster than 30 mph. Enforce cleaning intersections. Homeowners and plows need to keep step from street to sidewalk clear of snow and ice.
- It would be nice to have a couple parks with actual restrooms and not park Porta potties. More accessible indoor walking track. YMCA is too expensive.
- I've lived here most of my life, I have always loved the city. I feel like I'm being run out of my beloved city over the last 10 years or so. The cost of living here is getting out of control. I'm not sure how much longer I can stay.
- Keep Bridge Square as is. No redevelopment there.
- Keep the citizens informed of all city actions in a timely manner. Give careful consideration to responses from all citizens.
- Lack of transparency within city government to city residents is horrible. Slow communication (many would argue, intentionally slow) regarding many issues. I found out about city water magnesium levels from a Minneapolis news channel. At the time I went straight to the city's website and could find nothing regarding the issue - REALLY! Remove the bike curbs from the city streets around the area with all the presidential names. They are more of a problem than a help.

Ask (and I mean ASK!) any city fireman that has had to drive an emergency vehicle around those and they WILL TELL YOU what a problem it is. The street on that circle is too small for even normal traffic. My hometown in NW Iowa did the same thing and they have regretted it ever since! Taxes are so out of control that my wife and I are VERY SERIOUS about leaving. That is an opinion shared by many by the way. Northfield is not even remotely tax "worthwhile".

- Length in the library hours. People who work nights struggle to use the library.
- Less bike lanes better sidewalks
- Let us vote on large projects that effect our taxes, like the ice arena. Do not build the budget from the bottom up. i.e.. do not ask departments how much they need, tell them this is what you have to spend, We cannot afford to continue to have double digit Property Tax increases.
- Let us vote on things that could potentially raise our taxes a lot. We should not need to try to keep up with cities that have more people who contribute to the taxes. Make it easier for new businesses to locate to our area.
- Listen better, spend less frivolously, simplify spending to keep up with suburbs
- Listen to the citizens instead of treating them as enemies that need to be punished, mocked and disregarded. Stop being so arrogant and make sensible decisions. Listen to the citizens whose lives and neighborhoods are permanently harmed because of your stupid decisions.
- Love the bike trails. Grateful for safe places to ride and walk. I also think the park improvements are important for our quality of life.
- Lower our taxes
- LOWER TAXES
- Lower taxes and stop building useless bike lanes.
- Maintain what we have so it looks nice and lasts longer. Make the bike lanes all the same , less confusing. Plow curb to curb if you have the streets so narrow and have parking during the day. People park further away from the curb because of the snow.
- Maintenance is very important in a town. It affects many areas and all of us.
- Make sure that citizens have transparent access to issues and decisions regarding budget items affecting our taxes, unlike the recent ice arena debacle.
- Make the Archer House a destination spot not housing. Parking downtown is already at a premium.
- More accessible programs for working parents with young kids. Community programs don't schedule for parents with full-time jobs.
- More commercial taxes are needed. Property taxes have risen substantially every year that I've lived here.
- More park facilities for non-organized activities like walking trails, shady picnic areas, etc. The Cannon River between Sechler and Dundar is a wonderful opportunity.
- More Pickleball courts inside and outside and fencing around current court.
- More public bathrooms, and parks and downtown; less curved bike lanes and curb bump out on roads; more river access
- More trees, less cement. Growth isn't always good. Do something good with the Archer House site.
- Native plantings in all areas maintained by city.
- Need public parking ramp building adjacent to downtown
- Need street lights on 5th St., East
- Next time, don't fund a massive, expensive, non-essential facility like a new ice arena without putting it to a public vote. As a resident, I'm pretty disgusted by that decision, especially when the same council has decided we couldn't afford a new water treatment plant. Please put in a sidewalk

along Woodley that extends all the way out to Hwy 3. That stretch of road is so dangerous for pedestrians! Please look into your snow-removal strategies for roads. I know the plow drivers are out there working hard in the wee hours of the morning, so this is not a criticism of them, but the roads still feel messy and slippery to walk/drive on for a long period after each snowfall. I don't know if it's because the city has chosen not to salt the roads or what, but there consistently seems to be an inch or so of snow left on the roads that gets packed down over time rather than removed. My colleagues who commute from the Cities often comment about how much worse the roads are in Northfield (in re: snow) and as somebody who frequently visits the Cities, I agree. Finally, to city staff, thank you for all you do to keep Northfield safe, clean, and functional. I see you and I appreciate you!

- No hockey Palace. Spend the money on in school programs like music and theater. Make bike lanes uniform. I don't understand some of them.
- No more bike lanes
- No more bike lanes and bump outs. Fix the streets and sidewalks. Install sidewalks on the entire length of large streets like Woodley so people aren't walking on the roads.
- No more bike lanes on Maple Street! That approach was terrible and makes driving on Maple more difficult.
- No more bike lanes, but the type that involves depriving residence of ability to park vehicle in front of their home.
- No more bike pads on our current roads. Stop raising our taxes.
- No more curbed bike lanes please
- No more money invested in bike lanes
- No more spending millions on bike pads. Instead, spend it on housing. Do not raise taxes.
- no need for barrier divided bike lanes
- Noise ordinance regarding noisy trucks used in city limits.
- Normal folks are being taxed out of this town. My mortgage payment has gone up \$628 A MONTH since February of 2019. I love this community. I love the schools. But the vanity projects have got to stop. These bike lanes are completely useless. I voted no on the hockey arena, not because I hate hockey players but because I can't afford to keep paying for more things. Just because we WANT something as a community doesn't mean you can just demand folks pay for it when then can't afford it. I love the library. This town feels safe. But I'm looking at houses in Faribault. The idea of uprooting my children and moving them to a town I do not want to live in simply because my local government seems to think they can tax us for anything they want is heartbreaking. I can't vote to give myself a raise. I can't just pull an additional \$600 in each month. It feels like it won't stop and eventually I'll be forced to sell. I want the city to stop focusing on vanity projects for a while and start helping their people first.
- Northfield needs more restaurant options and apartments downtown... something besides pizza and coffee shops
- Not happy with all the big concrete divider between bike lane and traffic lanes. Painted bike lanes are good enough. Taxes are high enough.
- Our city needs to be able to provide basic maintenance to the town before entertaining other needs. Fix the roads and treat the roads in winter, plow, etc.
- Our taxes are too high. We will have to move once we retire.
- Overall Northfield is a great place to live with good city services and amenities. However, with the high taxes and cost of housing it will struggle to grow and thrive. For what we pay to live in Northfield, I would expect a more consistent level of city maintenance. Examples: I walk every day and see poor/inconsistent plowing of streets, people not maintaining their sidewalks and

there seems to be no enforcement, extremely icy and dangerous this winter. My street can be plowed 2-3 times right away during one snow storm and the next storm we might not have our street plowed for the entire day, long after the snow has ended. the bike lanes are much better maintained than the sidewalks, which seems odd as way more people walk in the winter than ride bikes. The beautiful tunnels were put in by the schools but are not well maintained in the winter and can be so icy and dangerous. It seems like the city wants to spend a lot of money on things like the tunnels and bike lanes, and there is not then good basic city maintenance after that. That is my biggest frustration. Also, we need more businesses/industry in this town for the tax base, to help support the town, the school system, etc. Economic development needs to be a top priority. We own a business in town, and Northfield has a long standing reputation of not being business friendly and that needs to change so that we can attract larger businesses/retail and thrive.

- Parks have too many dogs off leash. Unsafe roads poorly plowed - takes too long and left unplowed quite slippery. The money put into bike lanes is obscene. Keep it simple. Put the money into fixing roads instead .
- Phil and potholes in a timely manner. Use chemicals near stop signs in winter. Do not compromise traffic lanes to make permanent bike lanes. Require citizens to clear out junk in front of their homes.
- Pickleball courts. Affordable housing for young families or workers, lower taxes. Increase in manufacturing or technology base to help pay for taxes.
- Planning and supervising care and maintenance of parks we currently have needs to take precedent over new parks and expansion. I live across from a park that is a major part of the city (Washington Park) next time you're there take a look with new eyes. The grounds are haphazardly planted and kept. The basketball court is beloved and could be improved and our playground needs update or at least more permanent repairs/refreshed wood chips. The ice has only been viable for skating a couple weekends the past two years with the new hockey arena perhaps that space could have a better use. (No little league there in the summer either). People come and go there daily to city hall. It would be cool if we could improve it.
- Please add a play park or dog park or wildflowers or a walking path with benches to the green space off of They Parkway behind the freedom Court homes.
- PLEASE attend to pot holes in neighborhood streets more promptly and think carefully before putting more concrete separators in neighborhood streets - I support bike and pedestrian lanes, but the lanes for cars are too narrow, and drivers don't slow down. Especially when cars are parked along the side these car lanes are DANGEROUS!!
- Please be transparent about ICE activity if you can confirm they are staying in any hotel or residency within Northfield if possible
- Please continue to support and fund Northfield Library programs and services. For me and many others, the library is the center of the community. The quality of our library is one of the major reasons that I can't imagine living anywhere else.
- Please focus on environmentally friendly development and maintenance. Consider planning native species and doing away with lawns/grass. Please put a limit on how much individuals and businesses can water their lawns. Many people in my neighborhood water their lawns daily or multiple times daily. Water is for everyone and these people are wasting it. These limits should be in place ALWAYS not just when we are experiencing drought conditions.
- Please focus on getting the manganese out of the city water. Please enforcement on speeding, especially on Woodley and division streets.

- Please help to keep the massive Archer House hole maintained, shoveled, weeds cut, etc. We are so tired of looking at this hole and so tired of Rebound and their hold on the city.
- Please improve the general appearance of the main down town areas. Do something with "the pit". Clean up the side walks. If we're adding bike paths please don't remove parking/driving lanes to do so, it makes driving, parking, and bicycling more dangerous.
- Please keep the city safe
- Please reconsider the bike lane concrete barriers as stated in the Northfield News on Jan 28, 2026. Also add city parking rather than decreasing slots due to street modifications.
- Please repair the streets
- Please shovel sidewalks in the winter, more timely, and down to the pavement. Also clean the street drains as they are always clogged with leaves and grass.
- Please stop with the bike lanes. Make the library politically neutral. Update the playgrounds we have - so many are rusty (city Hall park needs help). I'd love to see the djjd carnival space used as a park or splash pad or gathering area or ANYTHING year round. It is such a waste of beautiful space. The pool was awful this year. The pool floor is peeling, the lifeguards are grumpy, the bathrooms are disgusting, the chairs are broken and there are not enough. The lifeguards play screamo music - not really a pool vibe most families want. Faribault has a much better pool at about the same price. We love living in Northfield because it is a beautiful town with such good people. But we don't work here or use the public schools, so the environment is the only thing we stay for. A few small updates to the things we already use would be so much better than building new things like the ice arena, new dam plan, more bike lanes, etc. And clean, reverse osmosis water would be fabulous.
- Please, please, consider the total cost to the taxpayer in deciding what projects are needed, not wanted. Look at what programs/projects can be reduced until it's financially feasible.
- Police roadway enforcement tends only to deal with licenses. They should be prioritizing behavior and in-motion violations that actually create dangerous situations. Moving enforcement should address both motorized and unmotorized violators. Public works should prioritize maintenance. Hazardous bike curbs, inconsistent and erroneous road markings, sidewalks to nowhere, bizarre concrete 'infrastructure' sculptures, and a redundant water treatment plant are all absurd wastes of public resources and manpower. The public library's social work mission has totally sidelined any education value it offers. I love libraries, but NPL is working hard not to be a library at all. Parks works should prioritize maintenance. We have plenty park spaces, and if maintenance continues to decline, it would only prove that we have more than we can handle. To improve the website, please, please find some way to make it searchable. Even the big corporate search engines struggle to find pages. From the citizen side, City Hall has been working better by having resident citizens lead the Boards & Commissions work (both research and implementation) and represent us instead of non-resident employees. I know you feel generally pressured and under the crunch of budgeting, but I do believe your backing off is best for all of us. Your job is to serve, not to command.
- Property taxes are being raised at too high a rate.
- Property taxes are too high!
- Property taxes have become unattainable. I am willing to pay for a strong safe community, but it is beyond expensive.
- Property taxes seem to be a big concern from folks that I have spoken with.
- Provide a grant or assistance program for reverse osmosis water filters for those concerned with high levels of manganese, especially families with infants. Low income families can't afford, and advising to use water bottles is unhealthy for infants since they have micro plastics.

- Put money into housing.
- Put more amenities into empty parks and clean, dead trees from Haabag Woods
- Quit paying consultants who are trying to change Northfield into something it is not. So much money is spent on these consultants for them to dream about projects that we don't need or want.
- Quit spending so much money! The ice hockey palace that will be used by 2% of the people will cost home owners nearly \$1000 dollars more per year and the city council did not allow us to vote on it. The city does not listen to it's residents.
- Regular maintenance on neighborhood roads especially when it snows.
- Remove a few parking barrier posts in bike lane on Lincoln Pkwy near Greenvale School so bicycles can ride in bike lane without having to veer out in traffic lane.
- Remove bike lanes from main street
- Remove boulevard trees in front of stop signs, especially in the Saint Olaf area
- Remove curbs for bike lanes and use paint only.
- Remove sanctuary city policies for safety sake! NOW
- Remove the bike lanes and bump outs.
- Remove the curb on Maple Street. Make bicycle rides consistent throughout the city and in agreement with county. Improve Park maintenance. Reject proposed new liquor store and parking garage. Delay any big projects that will significantly raise taxes. Sponsor neighborhood gatherings in common shared space for each section of the city to get more detailed feedback.
- Removed by pads they are not safe. As well as roundabouts.
- Send out city newsletter every two weeks. Designed streets with winter and the elderly in mind. Respond when someone says their street design is unsafe.
- Senior center-the city is greatly decreasing its support for this facility that provides recreation opportunities for older citizens.
- Shutting down every single work parking lot in the city from 8am-3pm on a weekday to clear a quarter inch of snow is about the least efficient way that you could deal with that. It is inconveniencing hundreds of people who are just trying to go to work. There has to be a better way to do that.
- So am I people want to feel safe but please know cameras or anything like that. No one wants to live in a police state that tracks all of your movements.
- Sometimes it seems public opinion is not factored into things. The hockey rink does not seem like a good investment.
- Special thanks to Shelley Evanson for her work, maintaining the natural quality of Hauberg Woods.
- Spending way too much on bicycle lanes
- Sports fields would benefit from more trees around them for shade is vital to spectators. Over mowing of non-active use park areas.-leave it for the birds and butterflies. Non-policing of crosswalk at third and Highway three.-someone will be hurt or killed the way it has gone with no one stopping.
- Stop adding ridiculous taxes making it totally unaffordable and unwelcoming to live here! Concern yourself with practical, citizen friendly projects and keep Northfield the way people are drawn to it. Consider an administrator that lives in the times and quits just piling on expenses! Make council and administrator be accountable for some of their ridiculous expenditures! You are driving people out of their homes and offering nothing for people to want to move here. Consider rent control like other cities have the common sense to do. Not everyone has Two incomes or excessive income!

- Stop blocking the road by the post office in the warm months. No one uses the space most days and it makes navigating the downtown area inconvenient.
- Stop cutting down woods for housing. Use existing open spaces, preferably already paved.
- Stop focusing on building bike trails. Start having a budget to keep the city looking nice. Weeds and lawn on the city roads and sidewalks look awful during the spring, summer and fall seasons. No point on people biking here if the roads and side walks look terrible.
- Stop pissing money away on pet projects and hiding major expenditures from a public vote. Expand the tax base and undo all of the economic damage done by Mayor Powell and her minions. That includes Martig.
- Stop spending money on wants. Needs are the only thing the city should be spending money on unless we vote for it.
- Stop spending money. Reduce exorbitant property tax burden
- Stop the bike lane and focus on sidewalks and trails. Library is a great resource for families.
- Stop the City Council from spending our tax dollars for unneeded projects. Property taxes are too high.
- Stop wasteful spending. Lower all taxes and fees (property tax, utility fees, etc.). Stop trying to fix things that aren't broken (e.g., the water, bridge square, the dam, etc.) and stop separated bike lanes. Start sincerely seeking ALL public input, not just those in your echo chamber; those working hard to just try to survive have no voice in the community but are the most impacted, seek out their input. Allow/encourage more franchise food options in town; the current state of affordable dining options is dreadful.
- Stop with the bike lanes!
- Support 50 North. That facility makes the city great and it's age friendly.
- Take down the dam; create an economic development agency made up of primary business leaders and others to develop strategies to fill the hole where the hotel burned, as well as to guide marketing efforts to attract buyers for vacant city owned land and buildings.
- Take the tampons out of the men's room at the library. Men don't menstruate. Get rid of the sanctuary city ideals.
- Taxation is way too high. It keeps going up with the city forcing new Taxation on the citizenry without voting for projects like the new Ice arena, etc. While state leadership raises our taxes to cover fraudulent activity we are left with a giant tax bill and little too nothing to show for our heavy tax burden. Northfield you have milked the Citizens Dry!
- Taxes are a concern. No public vote on new arena.
- Taxes are too high for what we receive. Focus on important issues like drinking water and waste water, then on once like bike lanes, etc.
- Taxes are too high! We need businesses to help offset the burden on homeowners!! Listen to the residents and quit doing as you please with this beautiful city
- Taxes are too high. I do not feel the council is listening.
- Taxes are too high. Need parking downtown. Bike lanes and residential streets are ridiculous.
- The bike lanes are dreadful and under used and create snow piles that hinder autos. Affordable housing is sorely lacking.
- The city has made roads, unsafe for cars and trucks. Blue-collar people who do the heavy work and maintenance which bicyclist and pedestrians benefit from. They do not concern themselves about the right away of vehicles.
- The City is increasing taxes too quickly and spending on the wrong things. We need to encourage business development to increase the tax base and help fund the numerous priorities that the City has. The street modification for bike paths is wasteful and overkill. I want bike paths but

simple/cost efficient methods are best. Citizens are only seeing 0-4% increases in income on an annual basis. How does the City feel that they are entitled to double digit increases in taxes every year and the addition of a possible Sales tax to build facilities and bike paths that are way beyond the scope that is needed. Support new business, new housing development, new retail opportunities. Pave streets, trim boulevards and city parks so they are presentable. Run an efficient organization!

- The city is not focusing on what is important. Too much waste of the taxpayers dollars on big business and unhealthy, non-value added Enterprises.
- The city should continue to implement the bicycle and pedestrian network and focus on providing a high-quality of life for youth and young families.
- The city should do more to support the arts. Far more residents are involved with the arts than with hockey.
- The city should take a role in keeping the parks throughout the city clean.
- The curbs and medians of the streets need to be maintained. It makes the whole town look bad when there are weeds growing out of every curb and median. The parks also need to be weeded better. And if you say you have six outdoor ice rinks, they should actually be usable. All of them except the one by the ice arena have been unusable this year. The one by the ice arena is only available for hockey players on it. The rest of the rinks have been half dirt the whole year. Whoever snow plows the schools tears up huge chunks of grass along the whole side of the road and parking lot at Bridgewater and the middle school (back entrance specifically) and the bike path on the way to the middle school wasn't plowed good if at all. A couple kids were trying to ride their bike to school in the freezing cold and struggling big time because of all the snow chunks in the bike path along Roosevelt. The lack of available single family housing in Northfield is ridiculous. We do not need any more townhomes, apartments or condos! We need single family homes in the \$400,000-\$475,000 range with larger lots. And the property taxes are out of control here. Northfield has become more expensive to live than places closer to the cities like lakeville, rosemount etc. The constant barking dogs on McKinley Drive are a nuisance. Specifically at 1708 and 1711 (or 1713)
- The ice arena and water treatment plant feel like they are/ were being shoved down our throats. The rapid growth in the city share of property taxes are an issue that isn't getting through to the city manager or some political leaders. We need to restrain this growth and get the tax base to increase. We're becoming Edina with out the means to pay for it.
- The inability to replace the Archer House sends a strong message that Northfield is not thriving or a place in which to do business. The empty hole is a symbolic message that's very negative.
- The library needs more books and less stuff. Space isn't utilized to its fullest potential.
- The Northfield city Council and boards need to be open to citizens complaints.
- The police should in no way be cooperating with ice, and doing everything in their power to stop them.
- The property taxes are out of control and making it hard to afford living here. Too many vanity projects.
- The water treatment/manganese issue has been stressful as a pregnant person and with young children in our household. Crossing Highway three safely is also a concern for our family.
- There are pockets of town where the houses are in rough shape and need LOTS of maintenance and take away from the charm of Northfield. (Greenville, Linden, Spring). It would be nice to have streets plowed faster. On the north end of town (They Pkwy) it takes a long time for the streets to be done. I realize this is too specific, but it sure would be nice to have They Pkwy cleaned up.

The weeds are bad in the summer and there are a few (?) dead trees that should be taken out. We, the neighbors, have been trying to tackle the weeds on our own.

- There are some dangerous intersections in our neighborhood. Lincoln and Adams; Hayes and Fillmore, and Hayes and Roosevelt. Difficult to turn right because of bike barriers.
- There are some really lovely, helpful people who work at the city, and I want to highlight that first. There are also people from whom I didn't get a response. I filled out the form on the website twice and got no response, though to be fair, it was more than one year ago.
- There are zero softball fields for girls softball. Where's the equality for girls sports? Boys baseball is able to host tournaments for baseball on city property, however, girls softball can't even play a game on city property. Please support our girls and make fields compliant for fastpitch softball. We also need single family homes!!! Please start a new development for middle to upper income earners. Let's bring in more families to help increase school numbers. We also need industrial for jobs and tax revenue.
- There is a growing number of older residence and few children. Accessibility by car and parking is essential or many will move and there will be more shopping out of town.
- There is no need to have sidewalks and bike paths next to each other. Make one wider so both can use it. I have yet to hear of a severe accident with bike and pedestrian. Very rarely do I see them being used for the same purpose intended.
- There needs to be a sidewalk along Woodley Avenue by Highway three. People are always walking on the road.
- There needs to be a space to develop an industrial park.
- This may not be relevant to the question, but the biggest issue I have with Northfield is that taxes are WAY TOO HIGH. I am approaching retirement age, and I am concerned about whether we can even stay in Northfield. There needs to be some tax breaks for people over the age of 65!
- Trails are too fragmented. All other cities around us have longer and connect trails without street usage.
- Use resources to aid removing snow & ice from roadways, bike paths & sidewalks. Stop over designing bike lanes for more traffic than the streets will ever see. It's wasting more & resources.
- Use tax dollars in a way that serves all citizens. Not just low income. Stop pricing out young families.
- Walking facility for indoor when the weather is bad.
- Water misters in more places, along bike trails and walking trails.
- We do not need more bike lanes - we DO need more and safer sidewalks. Every street should have a sidewalk, that should be a priority over bike lanes. It's embarrassing that parks, boulevards, and general city property are not well maintained in the spring/summer/fall. There are always (yes, always), weeds and long grass visible in boulevards, sidewalks, parks, etc. One example: cherry park was full of thistles in the playground area last summer. It was not addressed until I called the city, and it came back quickly. Way park is full of weeds and long grass in the landscaping. Basic maintenance of what we have should be a priority over building something new. IF there is room in the budget for something new, please put in a splash pad for kids.
- We don't subscribe to the local newspaper, which is not up to the quality of a college town. Online information is helpful that is easily navigable.
- We lack tennis and Pickleball courts; more truly affordable housing interspersed in our neighborhoods; any new downtown development should complement the historic character of the downtown buildings.
- We live in town homes on E edge of town. The neighbor next to us has an open flame wood burning fire pit table just 5 feet from my sons bedroom and just 3 feet from my deck structure.

We are very afraid of this. My son has bad dreams and doesn't even want to sleep in his room, he thinks he may die. I wish there was some way people were checking and better enforcing fire safety rules and expectations. Bathroom facilities with drinking fountains and hand washing would be greatly appreciated at our sports facility parks. I don't know why the water was off at Spring Creek Soccer Complex for so long- people are going in search of water and have no options. Sad. And dangerous when it is hot and kids can't get drinks. While I appreciate the efforts to try to make roads safer for bikers- the size of bike lanes near Spring Creek seem excessive. Why a third of the street? It feels so tight for the cars that it seems unsafe driving so close to the cars while we pass each other. Can it even be plowed?? The guy who lives East of Family Fare has SO MANY Machines, old cars, junk, trailers on the street/his property regularly. I feel bad for his neighbors that they have to stare at his outhouse on the trailer in the street daily (unless there is snow and the guy moves it). This has continued for years.

- We love living here. Taxes are too high but we have what we need.
- We love the historic flavor of Northfield, the safety, restaurants and quality of life. Want to see these continued uncompromised.
- We need a water treatment plant and yes I know it comes with a cost. Do it!
- We need commercial development to help with the tax burden. I understand my property tax bill is not just the City, but the County and School District as well. We keep talking about affordable housing, but we don't talk enough about job opportunities for those who may need that housing, for a quality community you have to have both.
- We need sidewalks on West Woodley. We don't need more bike lanes. The back streets are very unsafe. The city should consider clearing sidewalks on major routes.
- We need to attract more businesses for tax base. Property taxes are unaffordable for most.
- When the city knows of a homeless person who is constantly causing issues of vandalism and theft in our community, there ought to be a way to deal with it and get the guy under closer supervision.
- Why are there no questions about Fifty North, the jewel of this community.
- Would like to see more input from citizens and decision-making versus consultants, presenting to staff and council.
- Yes, the city needs to provide handicapped parking that is safe and with access to the sidewalks without having to navigate a curb, I rarely patronize many businesses for that very reason. I don't like having to walk behind parked cars using my walker to gain access to the sidewalks from designated handicapped parking in Downtown Northfield. Many elderly people live in Northfield and I'm sure encounter the same problem. Also, businesses should be encouraged to provide better access. Hand railings should be provided if one needs to navigate steps. Please give this careful consideration. Something needs to be done. It would improve the quality of life for many of us who need safe and better accessibility.