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# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY**

**September 2018**

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# ABOUT THIS SURVEY

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

In June 2018, the Town of Ridgway launched a year-long effort to update and consolidate the Town's Master Plan. A master plan is a community's primary long-term planning document, defining the community's big picture vision for the future and presenting a road map for achieving that vision. This survey was conducted between July and September 2018 to:

- Develop awareness in the community about the Master Plan process
- Understand what residents love most about Ridgway and their hopes and fears for the future
- Better understand housing needs in the community
- Provide a starting point for exploring how well the Master Plan's current vision, community values, and goals align with the community's vision for the future
- Understand community priorities and preferences for addressing major issues and opportunities facing Ridgway

## WHERE WE'RE HEADED

More than 660 people participated in this initial step in the Master Plan process. The results of the survey will be used by the project team to inform updates to the Master Plan's vision, community values, and goals, and to serve as a starting point for diving deeper into any issues, opportunities, challenges, or concerns expressed by survey respondents. The responses will also help us to understand where there is a lack of consensus on a particular topic that will require further community discussion.

# PART 1: SURVEY SUMMARY

Survey responses have been combined and organized by the following topics:

1. Background
2. Choosing Ridgway
3. Housing
4. Overall Issues and Opportunities
5. Visitors and Tourists
6. Detailed Comments

Where a free response option was offered for a particular question, a summary of major themes derived from those free responses is provided. In some instances, references to individuals or details that would reveal the individual were removed to protect the privacy of respondents and those referenced.

## BACKGROUND

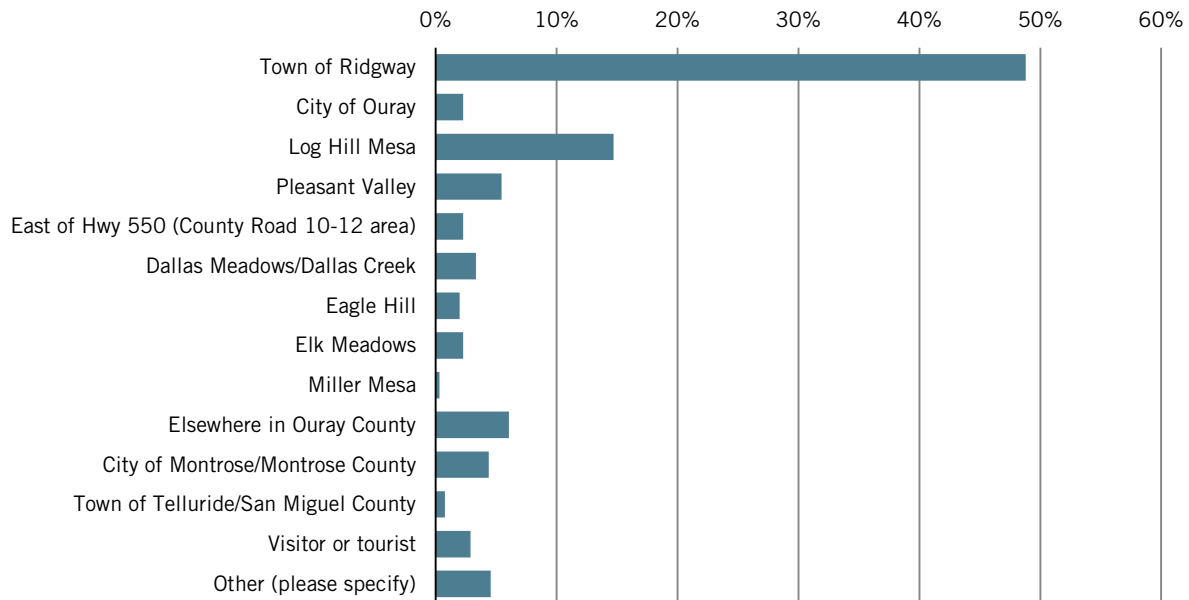
Survey respondents were self-selecting. Of the 664 respondents to the online survey:

- **Nearly half of respondents live in the Town of Ridgway.** Approximately 49% identified as being residents of Ridgway. Based on estimates for Ridgway's population in 2016, this result suggests that the survey reflects the opinions of around 30% of the town's 1,016 residents.
- **Most of the remaining half of respondents live in areas surrounding Ridgway.** The majority of the remaining respondents lived around Ridgway or in Ouray County. Only 13% reported living outside of Ouray County, and the majority of those respondents lived in Montrose or Montrose County.
- **Most are full-time residents.** The vast majority of responses came from people reporting they live in their place of residence on a full-time basis. Just 8% of all responses came from self-identified second-homeowners.

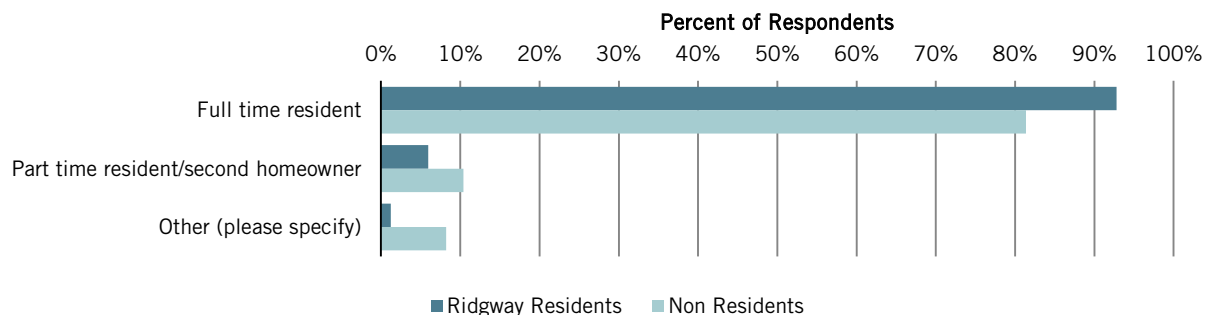
A more detailed discussion about survey respondents and a comparison of demographic groups and socio-economic differences between those who responded and Ridgway's population is provided at the back of this document.

For the purposes of this summary, responses from Ridgway residents have been separated out from other responses. The Master Plan is a document that should reflect the vision of Ridgway's residents, so this was done to ensure that the conclusions drawn from the survey are not skewed by those who do not live in Ridgway. However, there was not a tremendous amount of difference between the responses of Ridgway residents and those who live outside the town—generally all residents of the region share similar concerns and hopes for the future.

### Q1: How would you describe where you live?



### Q2: Thinking about your response to the previous question, do you consider yourself to be a:

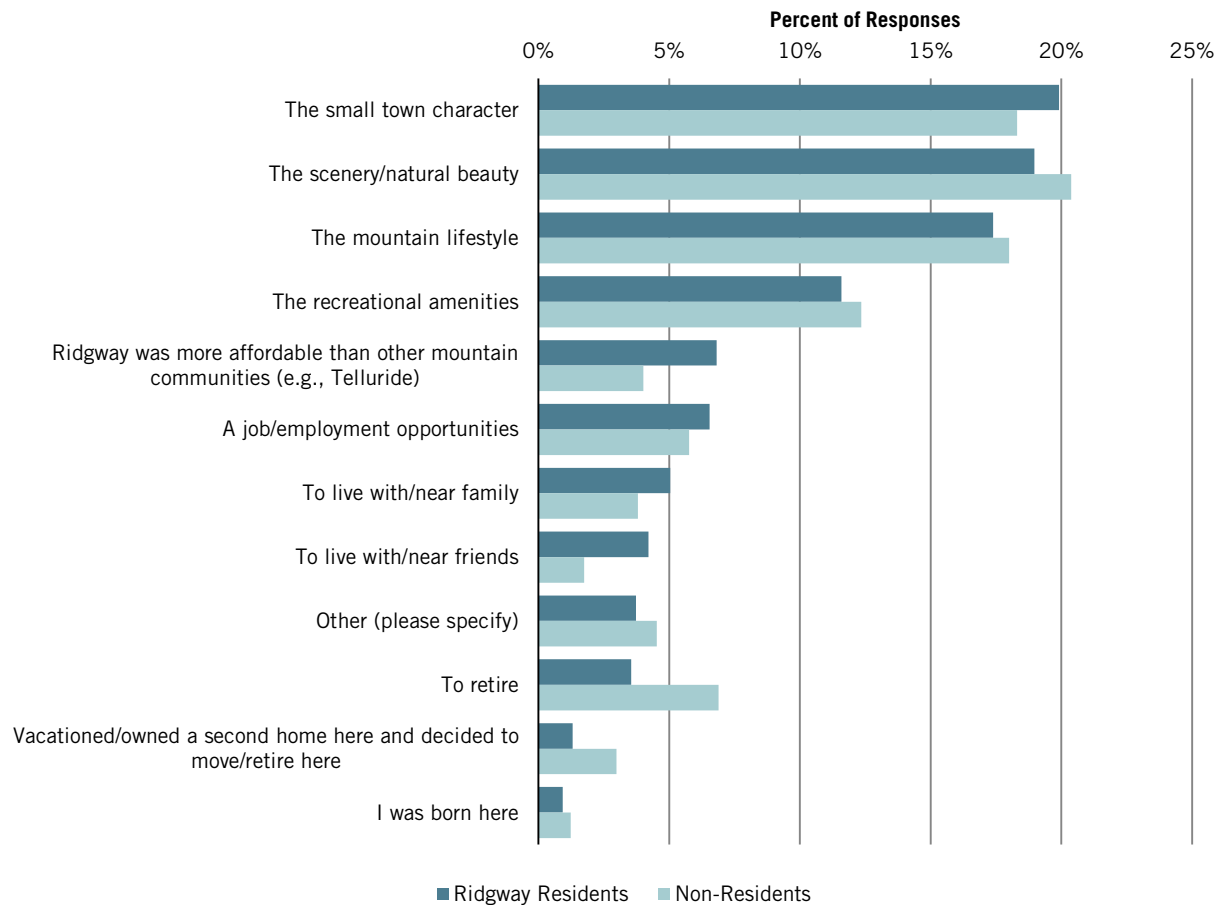


## CHOOSING RIDGWAY

By and large, there was little difference in responses to questions about what brought people to Ridgway, what keeps them here, and what would make them leave between those who identified as Ridgway residents and those that did not. Generally, small town character, scenery/natural beauty, and mountain lifestyle were ranked most frequently as reasons why people decided to move to Ridgway. These are also largely what people said keeps them in Ridgway, along with the community and its people. Respondents reported that too much change or growth or a loss of Ridgway's small town character would make them want to leave Ridgway, in addition to a loss of

the community’s scenic beauty/a decline in environmental quality, and an increase in the cost of living that would make Ridgway too unaffordable.

**Q3: What brought you to Ridgway? (select all that apply)**



#### Q4: In your own words, feel free to share what brought you to Ridgway (Summary of detailed comments)

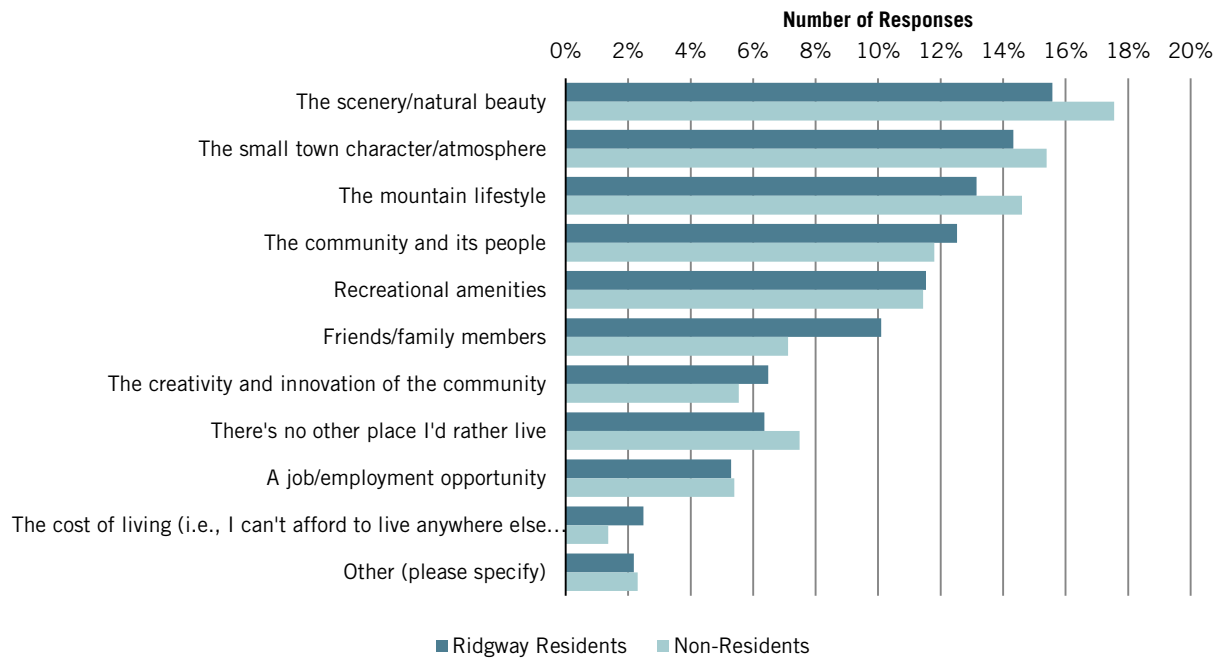
TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Small Town Character	28	28
Natural Environment	23	31
Community	13	7
Miscellaneous	13	3
Housing	9	3
Job	9	7
Family	8	10
Business/Amenities	3	0

Some key takeaways from the responses to this question include:

- **Small town character.** For residents, the small town character was the predominant reason they chose to settle in Ridgway, with over a quarter of residents mentioning this in their free response answers. The beautiful natural environment, the location, and the community were the next most prevalent responses. Non-residents also valued the small town character of Ridgway, but tended to value the natural environment even more than Ridgway residents. Respondents noted that small town character has a lot to do with the small town population, the lack of development, the slower pace of life, and a hard-to-find quality of authenticity, of “realness,” that is not present in larger, more commercial, more touristy towns. Many survey respondents’ talk about Ridgway being “off the beaten path” and how they value the peace and quiet this seclusion affords them.
- **Sense of community.** Survey respondents tended to define community based on the degree to which people are involved in town events and affairs, the overall friendliness of people, and their personal sense of belonging and kinship with their fellow citizens.
- **Relative affordability.** A common theme in the responses is the affordability of Ridgway housing in comparison to other nearby towns such as Telluride and Ouray.
- **Natural environment.** The natural environment is the second largest draw for Ridgway residents and the largest draw for non-Residents. Both residents and non-residents cite the beauty of the mountain scenery, the weather, and easy access to outdoor recreation as one of the reasons they settled in Ridgway and the surrounding areas. Responses also frequently mention the isolation of the area, calling it “untouched” and contrasting it with the congestion and pollution of the Front Range.



### Q5: What keeps you here? (select all that apply)



### Q6: In your own words, share what keeps you here? (Summary of detailed comments)

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Small Town Character	16	10
Community	15	10
Miscellaneous	10	13
Natural Environment	10	4
Family	5	2
Education	4	2
Moved Away/Considering Moving	4	1
Arts/Culture	2	1
Job	1	5
Parks/Trails/Open Space	1	1
Location	0	3

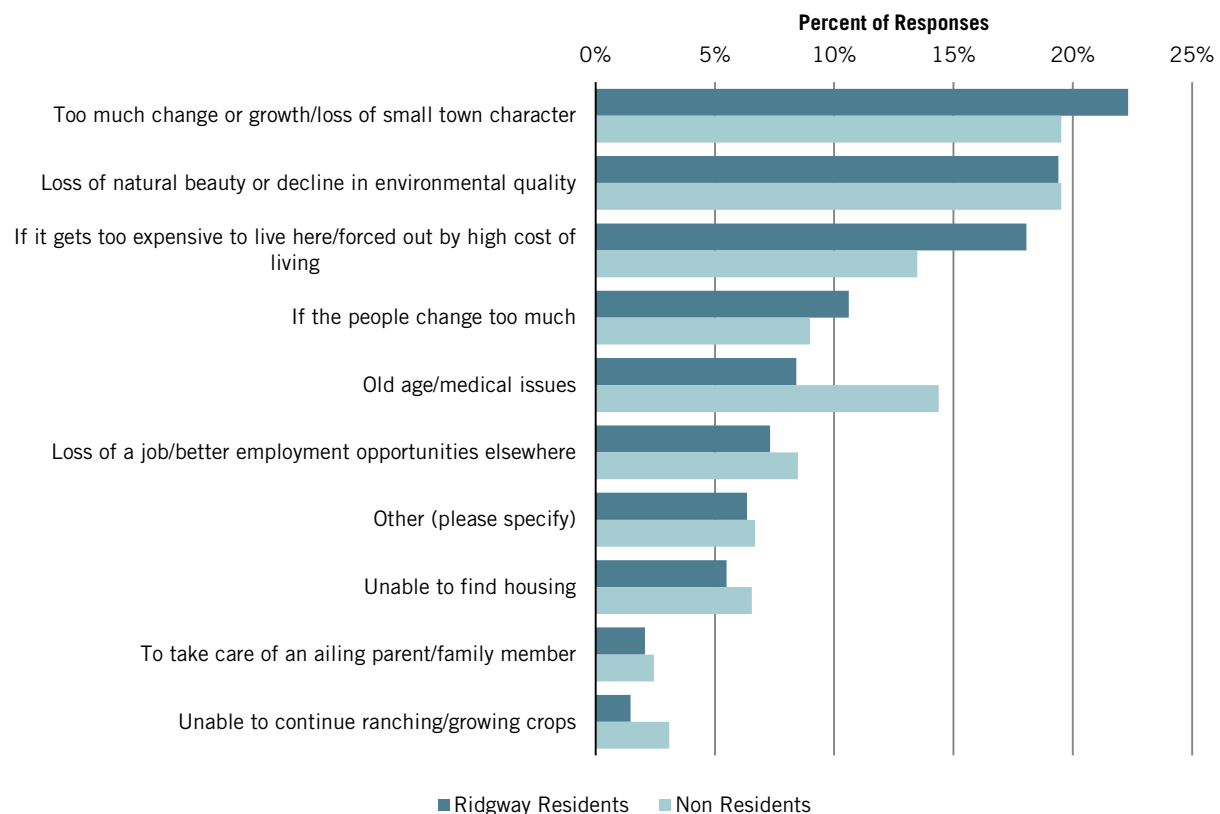
Some highlights from the responses to this question include:

- **Community.** For both residents and non-residents, “community” is one of the top three keywords in their responses to this question. As discussed previously, community is an often

hard-to-define concept. Here, respondents most often cite the friendly and welcoming nature of the people, the feeling of being surrounded by like-minded citizens, the close-knit ties of the residents. Several respondents mentioned that the strong sense of community is what makes them feel at home in Ridgway. One respondent even described Ridgway’s community as like “being part of a giant family.”

- **Small town character.** Both residents and non-residents continue to cite Ridgway’s small town character as one of the top three reasons why they stay in Ridgway. The small population and relative lack of tourism compared to other mountain communities are frequently mentioned. The walkability, the “low key feel”, and the quietness of the town are also common themes in this category.

### Q7: What might make you leave Ridgway? (select all that apply)



**Q8: What might make you leave Ridgway? (Summary of detailed comments)**

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Community	43	37
Land Use & Built Environment	30	13
Housing	13	8
Economic Development	12	6
None/Unknown	9	10
Health & Wellbeing	8	8
Miscellaneous	8	7
Natural Environment	6	14
Education	4	5
Family	2	3
Infrastructure & Public Services	2	0
Small Town Character	1	5

As we saw in the previous question responses, Ridgway's people and strong sense of community are some of the reasons residents choose to stay in the area. Conversely, perceived changes in that friendly, welcoming community are by far the most given reason when asked why people might choose to leave Ridgway. Nearly one-third of respondents (31% of residents and 32% of non-residents) spoke about the community in their free responses to these questions.

Responses to these questions included themes of community change, fears of outsiders moving in who may not represent the current resident's values, concerns about wealthy second-home owners displacing long-time locals, and an increase in tourism. Respondents cited towns such as Telluride and Aspen as examples of what they do not want to happen to Ridgway.

Some highlights include:

- **Cost of living.** Responses that were placed in the Economic Development category typically concerned the high cost of living in the area, the lack of well-paid employment opportunities, the lack of businesses and shopping in the area, particularly the lack of an affordable grocery store.
- **Access to care/inability to age in place.** While concerns about health & well-being were not the most prevalent responses to this question (6% of residents and 7% of non-residents), they are important to note as it concerns a particularly vulnerable part of the population. Older residents and those with chronic health conditions worry that they will be forced to leave Ridgway due to the lack of medical care facilities and nursing homes. On the other end of the age spectrum, families with young children express concern at the lack of child care facilities, the lack of access to affordable food, and the lack of a 24 hour emergency medical clinic.
- **Housing costs.** Housing issues are cited in the free responses by 9% of Ridgway residents and 7% of non-residents as being a primary reason for leaving Ridgway. Many people mention

the difficulty of finding affordable housing, both in the rental and owner markets. Young families especially seemed concerned about being forced to move due to the lack of affordable housing.

- **Growth and development.** After concerns about the changing nature of the Ridgway community, fears about the future of Ridgway's land use and built environment were the second-most cited reason for residents (22%) and third-most cited reason for non-residents (11%) when asked about what would make them leave Ridgway. Concerns mainly focused on the pace of growth, concerns about the quality and speed of new development, urban sprawl, and increases in traffic and population. Many people mention that the preservation of ranch land and a rural lifestyle is important to them. However, in a contrasting opinion, a few people mention that the preservation of too much open space and ranch land is contributing to the housing shortage. Also mentioned many times is the sense that the local government cares more about making money off new development rather than improving the quality of life for current residents.
- **Changes in natural environment.** The natural environment was the second-most cited concern for non-residents (12%). While it was not one of the top concerns for Ridgway residents (4%), the responses are worth exploring in more detail. Respondents expressed a lot of concern about the changing climate, mentioning hotter summers, a drier climate/increased chance of drought, and the increase in wildfires contributing to poor air quality as reasons why they would potentially leave the area. Pollution and the general degradation of the natural environment and wilderness areas were also top concerns in this category.

#### Q10: What are you/were you most proud of our community (Summary of detailed comments)

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Community	92	84
Arts & Culture	43	40
Miscellaneous	17	17
Infrastructure & Public Services	16	24
Land Use & Built Environment	15	7
Natural Environment	13	4
In the Past	13	10
Economic Development	6	8
Education	5	15
Parks, Trails, and Open Space	3	0
Housing	0	4

Common themes in the open-ended comments include:

- **Community.** Community is the most commonly cited reason by survey respondents when asked when they are most proud of Ridgway. People speak often about how the Ridgway community pulls together to support each other during times of need. People often frequently mention the town's civic engagement and how they love seeing and talking to everyone at community events. The friendliness of the local residents is also mentioned repeatedly in the comments.
- **Arts & culture.** Access to arts and cultural was the second-most common reason cited by survey respondents for why they were proud of their community. Community events, such as concerts in the park, the farmers market, festivals, and the Sherbino Theatre productions are mentioned frequently. Many people also mention the vibrant arts community, the creative district designation, and public art installations as things they take pride in.
- **Local business focus.** Economic reasons that people are proud of Ridgway include keeping out large chain retailers like City Market and Wal-Mart and support for small local businesses such as shops, restaurants, and dispensaries.
- **Schools.** Many people, especially non-residents, are proud of Ridgway's education system and the high performing schools.
- **Investment in public facilities and spaces.** Survey respondents mentioned the completion of the RAMP up project, the improved streetscape, and the new library as things that made them proud of their community.
- **Growth management.** Survey respondents expressed pride in how the town is focused on "smart growth" rather than suburban sprawl. The revamping and beautification of downtown is also mentioned multiple times.
- **Protection of the natural environment.** About 4% of all survey respondents said they were most proud of Ridgway when it worked to protect the natural environment. River protections, dark sky initiatives, pesticide free policies are all mentioned by more than one person.
- **Ridgway of the past.** Approximately 5% of survey respondents said that they were most proud of Ridgway in the past, typically between 15-25 years ago. These residents and non-residents don't like the way Ridgway has grown and changed over time. One respondent reminisced about the days when Ridgway was a "quiet cow town."

#### Q11: When are you/were you most disappointed in our community? (Summary of detailed comments)

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Community	37	38
Housing	30	16
Land Use & Built Environment	29	20
Miscellaneous	26	8
Infrastructure & Public	23	21

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Services		
Governance/Law Enforcement	17	12
Natural Environment	11	9
Economic Development	10	29
Dogs/Leash Law	9	1
Arts/Culture	6	9
Marijuana/Drugs	6	8
Transportation	6	5
Education	5	6
None	3	20
Parks, Trails, and Open Space	2	1
Health & Wellbeing	0	3

The reasons that people are disappointed in Ridgway are considerably more diverse than the reasons people are proud of it. For Q11, land use and the built environment, housing, and infrastructure and public services were the next most common answers as to why people were disappointed in their community.

Common themes in the open-ended comments include:

- **Community values.** Community was the top response for both Q10, which asked what people were most proud of in Ridgway (40%) as well as a Q11, which asked what people were most disappointed in (18%). While people are proud when they see their community come together in times of need and support one another, they are disappointed when they feel the community does not reflect their values. Common themes include: residents disrespecting public spaces, political divisions and conflict with newcomers, lack of civic engagement, and complaints about people being unfriendly or unwelcoming.
- **Public art.** There is a portion of the community that dislikes the artistic style of the new public art, particularly the benches. A frequent complaint is that these new artworks do not represent the town's historic western character and are more emblematic of East Coast "big city" values.
- **Dog issues.** Complaints about people not picking up dog poop, off-leash dogs, and a lack of response to noise complaints about dogs were cited by a number of participants. There were also some respondents who disagree with the new dog leash laws and who dislike the town providing plastic dog poop bags for sustainability reasons.
- **Affordability/cost of living.** Economic development was one of the top five reasons cited for why people were disappointed with Ridgway. The issue was more salient for non-residents (14%) than for residents (5%). Common issues in this category include the need for an

affordable grocery store, the presence of Family Dollar and other non-locally owned stores, the lack of well-paying jobs, and general concerns about cost of living.

- **Infrastructure and public services.** This category was one of the top five categories of responses for Q11, with 10% of both residents and non-residents citing this as a big disappointment. The major issue cited here is the paving of streets as some of the residents preferred the old-fashioned dirt roads and dislike the streetscaping improvements. Other issues include new traffic regulations and signs, and new rules about bear-proof trash cans, and water and trash fees.
- **Land use and the built environment** were also ranked among the top three disappointments for residents (13%) and non-residents (10%). The main concerns include decisions about how to deal with growth and development, code enforcement for unkempt properties, and issues with new businesses such as parking, noise, or light pollution.
- **Drug use/sales.** About 4% of all survey respondents were disappointed in the growth of the marijuana industry in the Ridgway. Several people expressed concern that dispensaries are concentrated in the “gateway” into town. Several people express concern about the “growing drug culture.”
- **Lack of environmental protections.** About 5% of survey respondents were disappointed in Ridgway’s handling of its natural environment. Concerns included disappointment over the vetoing of a solar farm, disagreements over how to protect the river, and the usage of plastics and unavailability of recycling services.

### Q12: What do you hope Ridgway will be like in 20 years? (Summary of detailed comments)

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
More specific response	156	153
Same/Similar	80	78
As it was in the past	11	5
None	0	6

Many people indicated that they would like to see the Ridgway remain the same or similar to the way it is today, while very few people indicated they would prefer Ridgway to be as it was in the past. Many respondents cited specific aspirations and desired enhancements for the Town in the future. The common themes from these responses include:

- **Managed growth.** Many respondents noted that they do not want Ridgway to be substantially bigger than what it is today and that growth that does occur should be carefully managed. Peace and quiet, small town character, and protection of open space and wildlife are some of the key characteristics of the town that both residents and non-residents desired to preserve in the face of future growth.
- **Services and amenities.** Improvements to existing services and infrastructure (e.g., access to healthcare, road improvements) of the Town were highly desired by respondents. An increase in amenities such as a grocery store, community center, and more dining options were also favored by respondents.

- **Affordable housing.** Ensuring that affordable housing is available for all demographics of the community including families, young adults, and the elderly was also a recurring theme respondents cited.

### Q13: What do you fear Ridgway will be like in 20 years? (Summary of detailed comments)

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Telluride/Boulder/ Other Mountain Communities	68	58
Growth	65	56
Expensive/Wealthy	54	52
Miscellaneous	18	20
Bedroom Community	11	4
Community	11	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Homes/VRBO	8	8
Stagnation	7	10
Commercial	3	9
Natural Environment	3	5
None	3	9
Tourism	3	5

The top three fears respondents cited regarding the Town's future were that: 1) Ridgway would be transformed into another exclusive mountain resort town like Telluride; 2) Excessive population growth and development would occur, changing the community; and 3) Ridgway would become an exclusive community that only the wealthy can afford to live in. In sum, respondents desire to preserve the small town character and strong sense of community that Ridgway has and any changes that will degrade those qualities are greatly feared. Highlights and key themes from the responses include:

- **Resort community.** Many respondents indicated that they do want Ridgway to turn into another mountain resort community like Telluride. Specific concerns included: housing affordability, excessive amount of second homeowners, and strong reliance/focus on tourism.
- **Growth and development.** The fear of crowding, traffic, and sprawl were the main concerns that respondents had regarding the town's future growth.
- **Affordability.** Respondents fear that current residents of Ridgway will one day no longer be able to afford to live in the community. People fear that the town will become a retirement community for the wealthy and that tourism will be the sole focus of Ridgway and not its residents.

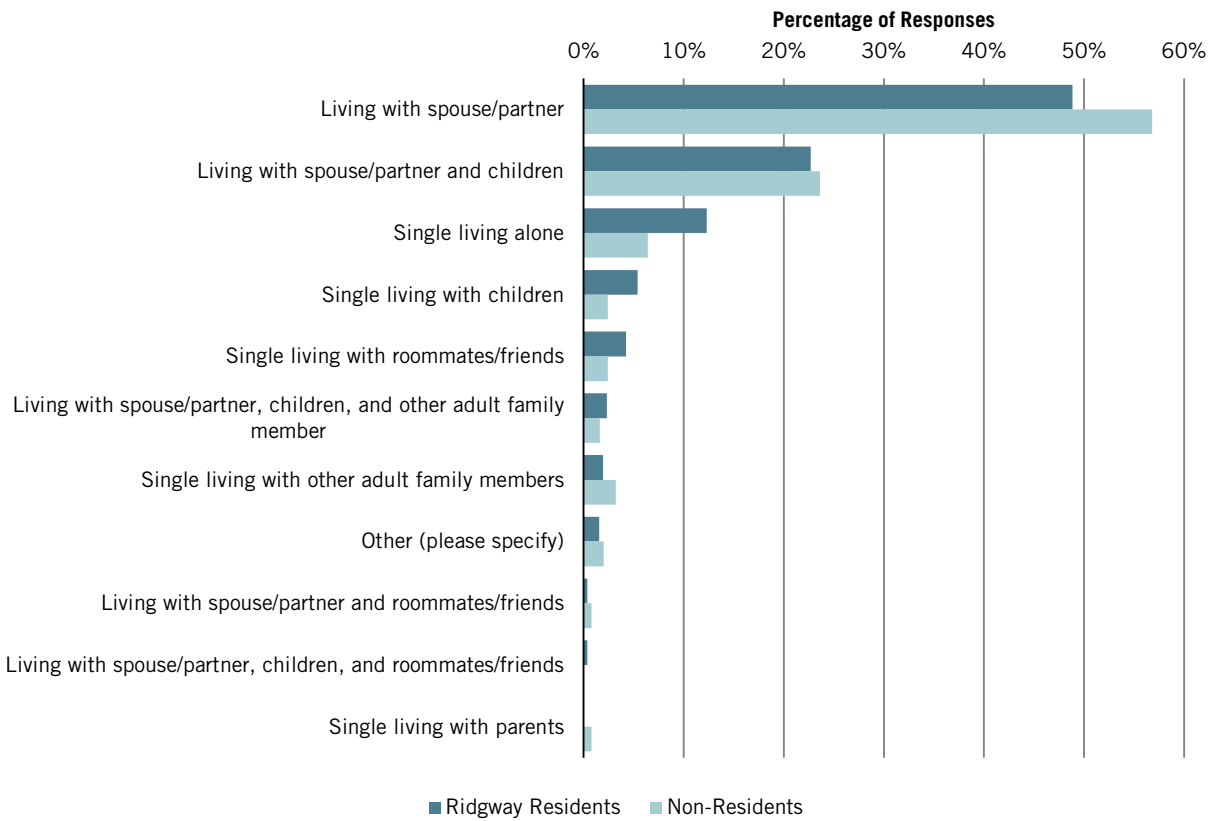


## HOUSING

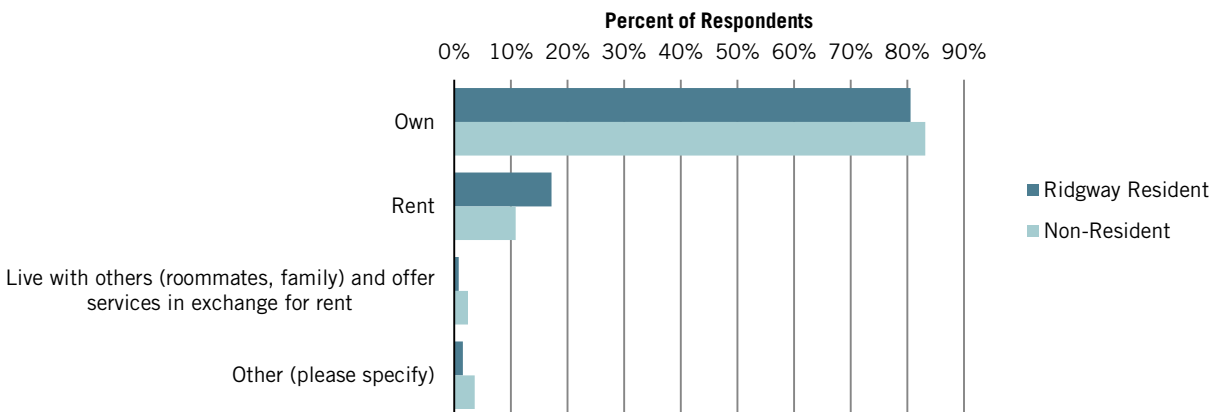
The following questions were included in the survey to learn more about the housing issues and challenges residents of Ridgway are facing. As with the previous grouping of questions, there was not a tremendous amount of difference between responses from Ridgway residents and other respondents. The greatest discrepancy arose in question 16 regarding factors that respondents looked for when choosing their current residence; while respondents from both groups considered cost to be their top priority, those living outside of Ridgway gave greater weight to being able to bike to work and stores, services, etc. from their homes.

It should be noted that the survey may not accurately reflect the housing needs or challenges faced by renter households. According to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 38% of Ridgway households were renter households in 2016. In contrast, just 17% of respondents from Ridgway said they rent their home. In addition, the results may not accurately reflect the housing needs or challenges faced by non-family households. In 2016, 47% of households in Ridgway were family households (meaning two or more members of the household were related to one another by blood or marriage). While we did not ask a question specific to household composition, question 14 can be interpreted as such, and suggests that around 84% of respondents from Ridgway lived in a family household (i.e., with their spouse, children, and/or another family member). This is not to suggest that the results are not accurate or useful for the Master Plan process.

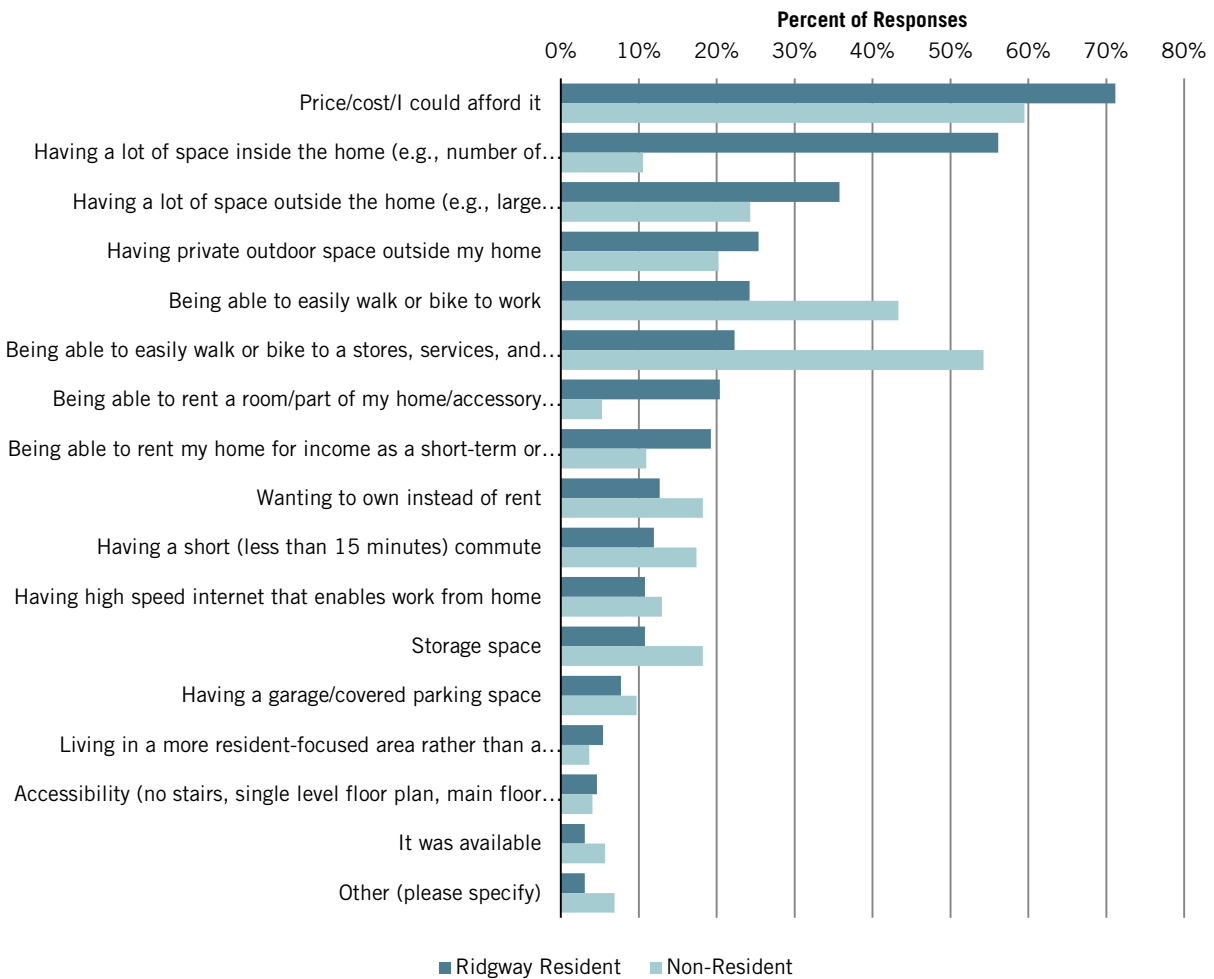
**Q14: Please describe the type of household in which you currently live.**  
**Are you:**



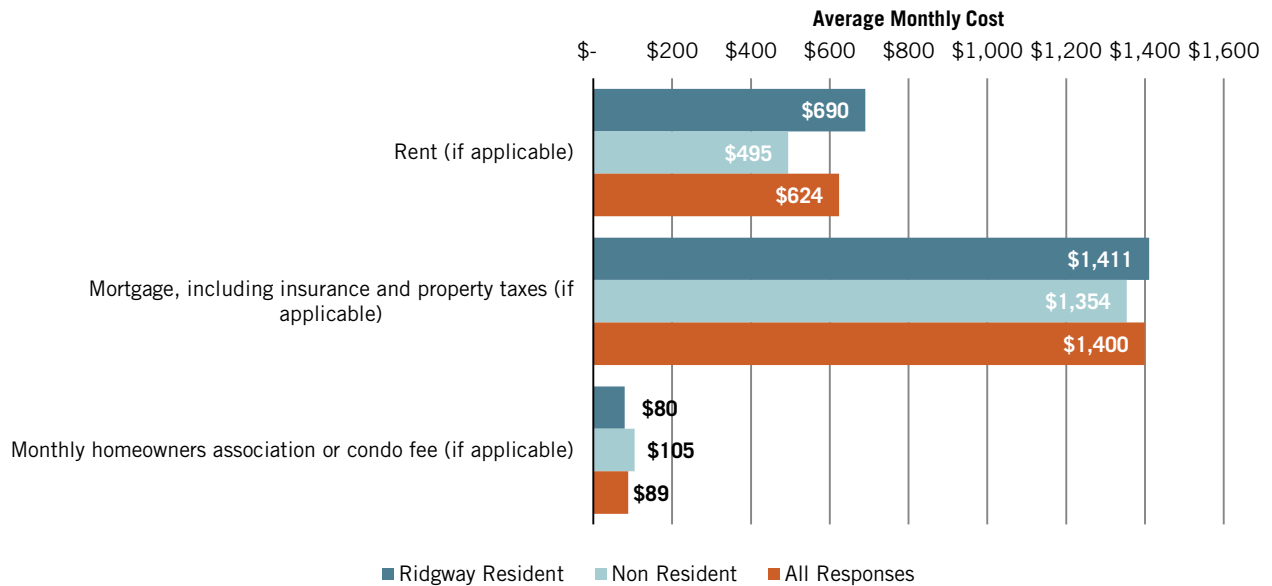
**Q15: Do you own or rent your current residence?**



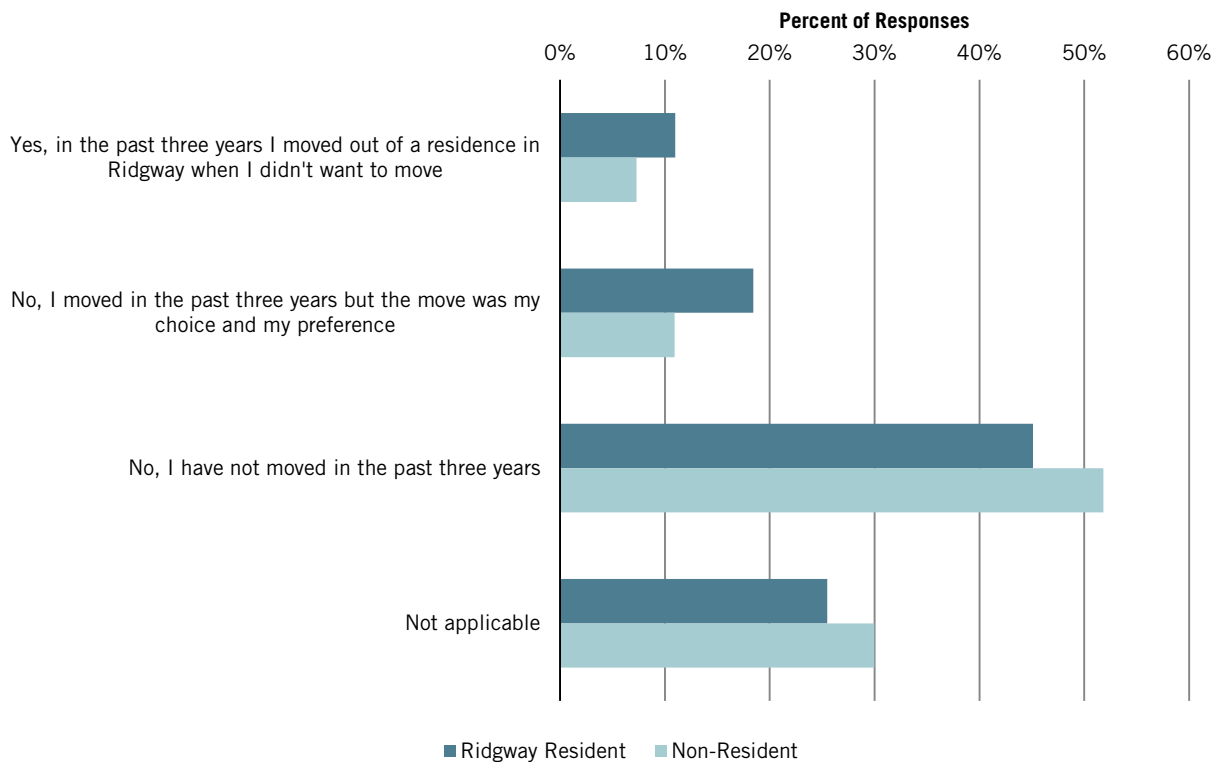
**Q16: Which three factors were most important to you in choosing your current home or apartment? (select up to three)**



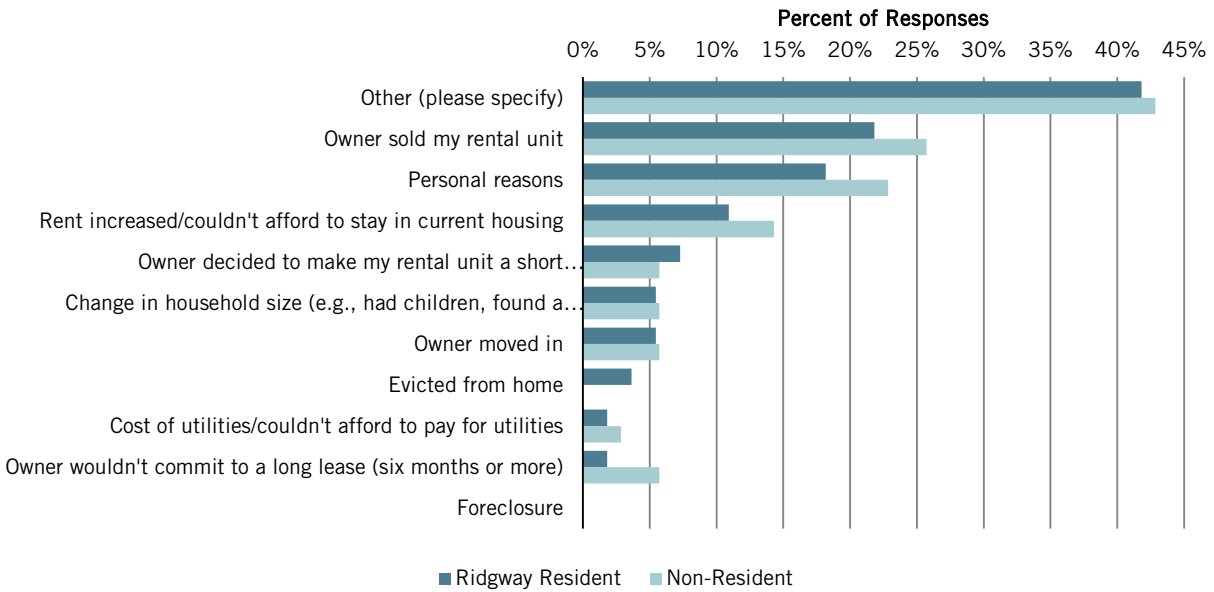
**Q17: Currently, how much does your household pay each month for:**



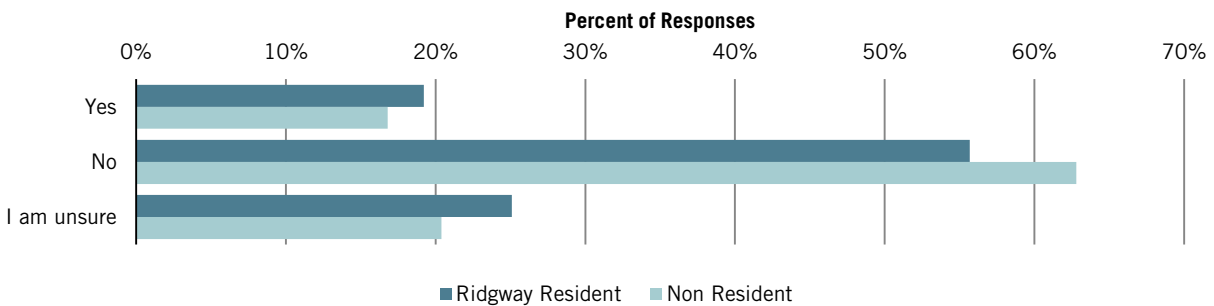
**Q18: In the past three years, have you had to move out of a home, condo, or apartment in Ridgway when you didn't want to move?**



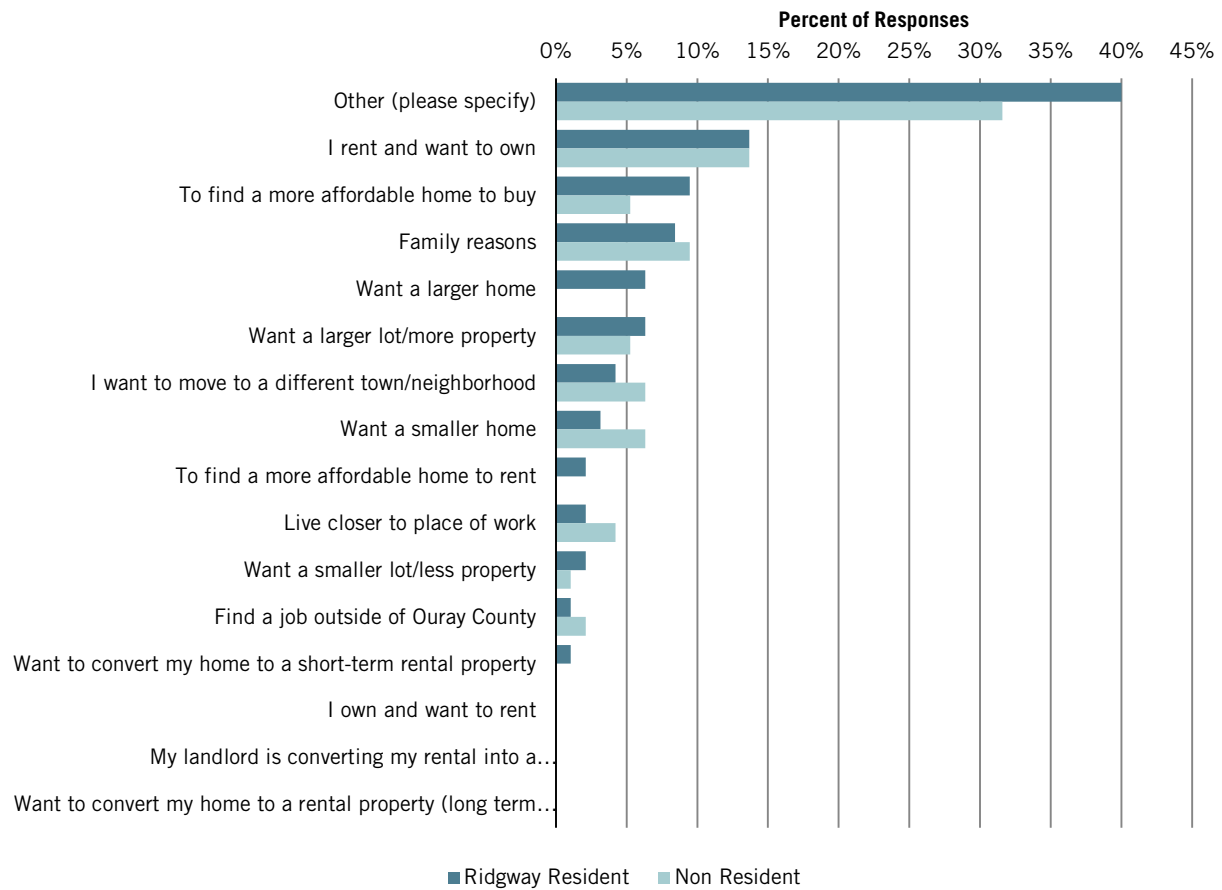
**Q19: If you answered yes to the previous question, what was the primary reason you had to move? (select all that apply)**



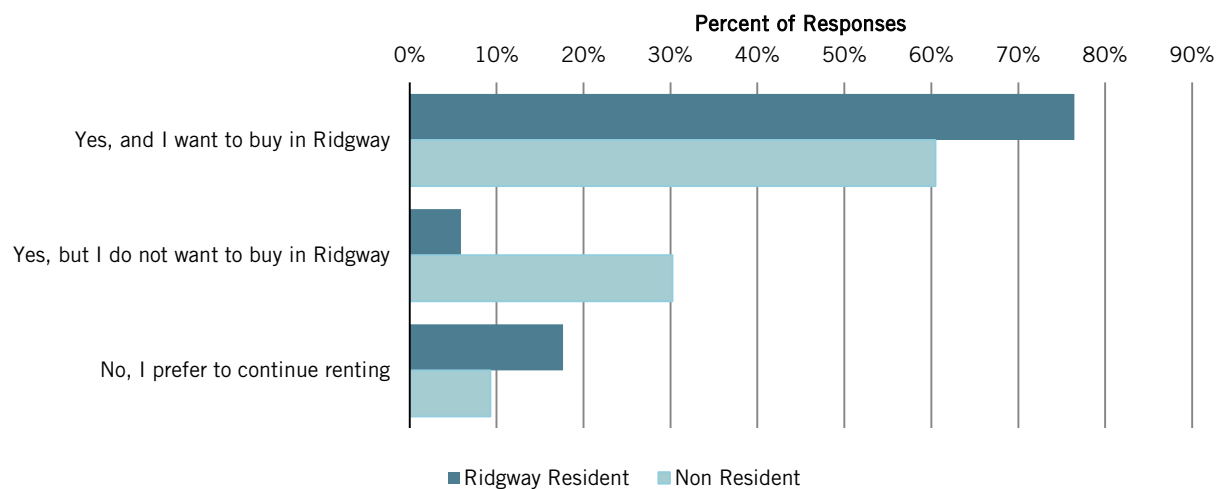
**Q20: Do you plan to move in the next five years? This includes moves within Ridgway and moves to another community.**



### Q21: If yes, what is the main reason you plan to move?



### Q22: If you currently rent, do you plan to buy a home in the next 10 years?



## ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In this section of the survey, respondents were asked to rate a number of specific issues within 5 topics (transportation, natural and built environment, housing, economic health, and quality of life) using the following scale: poor, not very good, fair/average, good, excellent. Each of these response choices was translated into a number value (1 for poor; 5 for excellent) in order to quantify an average weighted score for each topic. Across all of the topics, respondents identifying as Ridgway residents gave the following the lowest and highest rankings.

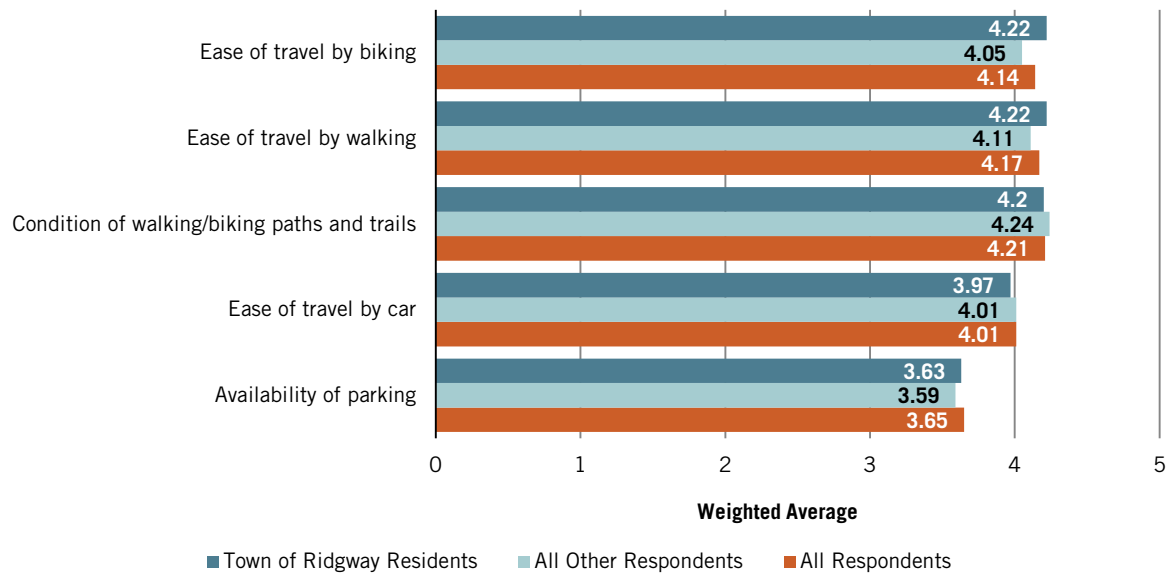
The availability of housing units for rent, the availability of a range of housing types, and access to/availability of child care/preschool were also ranked in the top 5 lowest scoring issues by those who did not identify as Ridgway residents. The quality of our parks and cultural/music/art events/activities also ranked among the top 5 issues with the highest scores for this group.

The following five issues were rated as poor/not very good or good/excellent by the largest number of respondents from Ridgway:

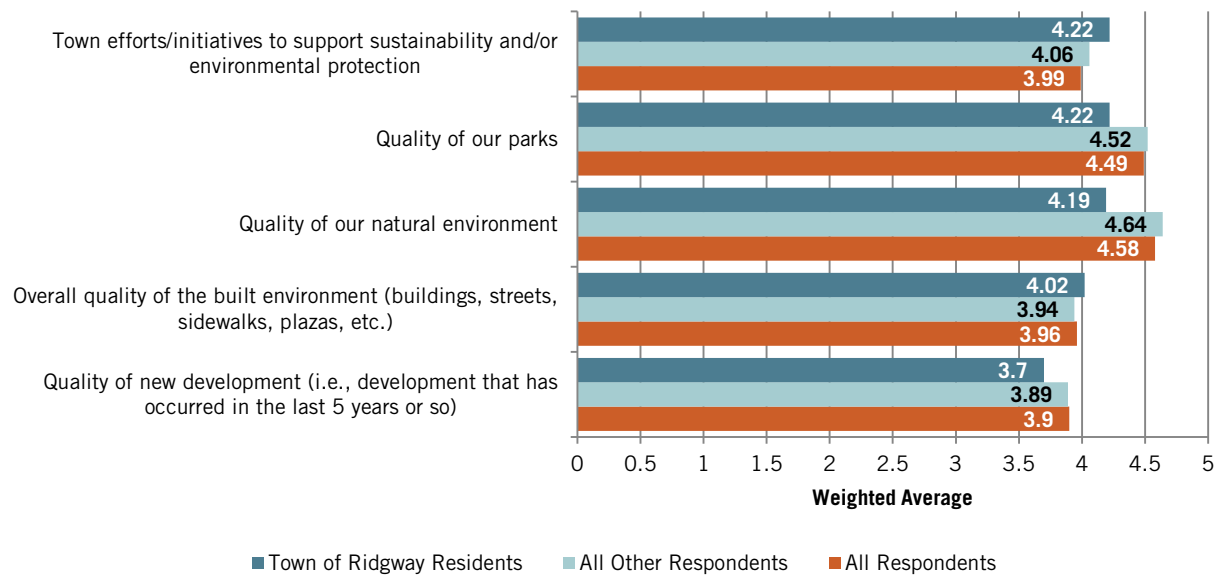
Top 5 Issues Ranked GOOD or EXCELLENT (Ridgway Residents)	Top 5 Issues Ranked POOR or NOT VERY GOOD (Ridgway Residents)
1. Condition of walking/biking paths and trails	1. Access to/availability of affordable food (not including restaurants)
2. Quality of our natural environment	2. Availability of housing for rent
3. Cultural/music/art events/activities	3. Availability of a range of housing types
4. Quality of our parks	4. Availability of housing units for sale
5. Ease of travel by biking	5. Availability of housing my household can afford

There was considerable overlap in issues that were ranked “poor” or “not very good” and “good” or “excellent” between those who identified as Ridgway residents and those that did not. Although in a different order than above, the top five issues ranked as “poor” or “not very good” were the same across these two groups. This is almost the case for the top five issues ranked as “good” or “excellent”; more respondents that did not identify as Ridgway residents ranked ease of travel by walking higher than biking.

## Transportation

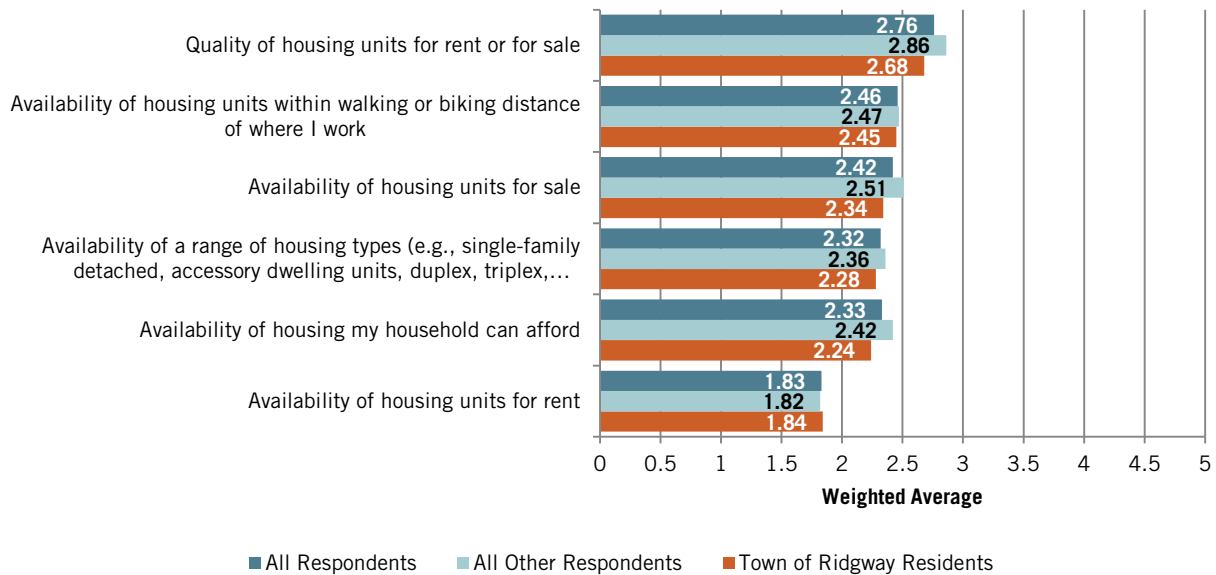


## Natural and Built Environment

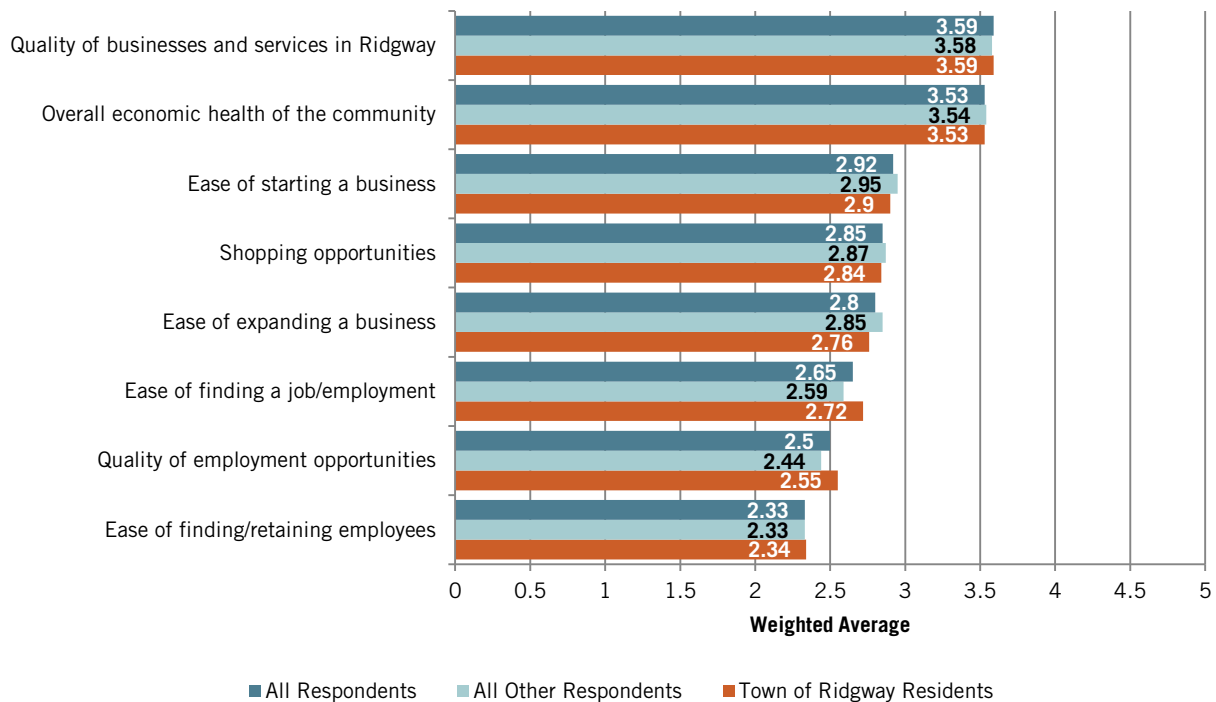




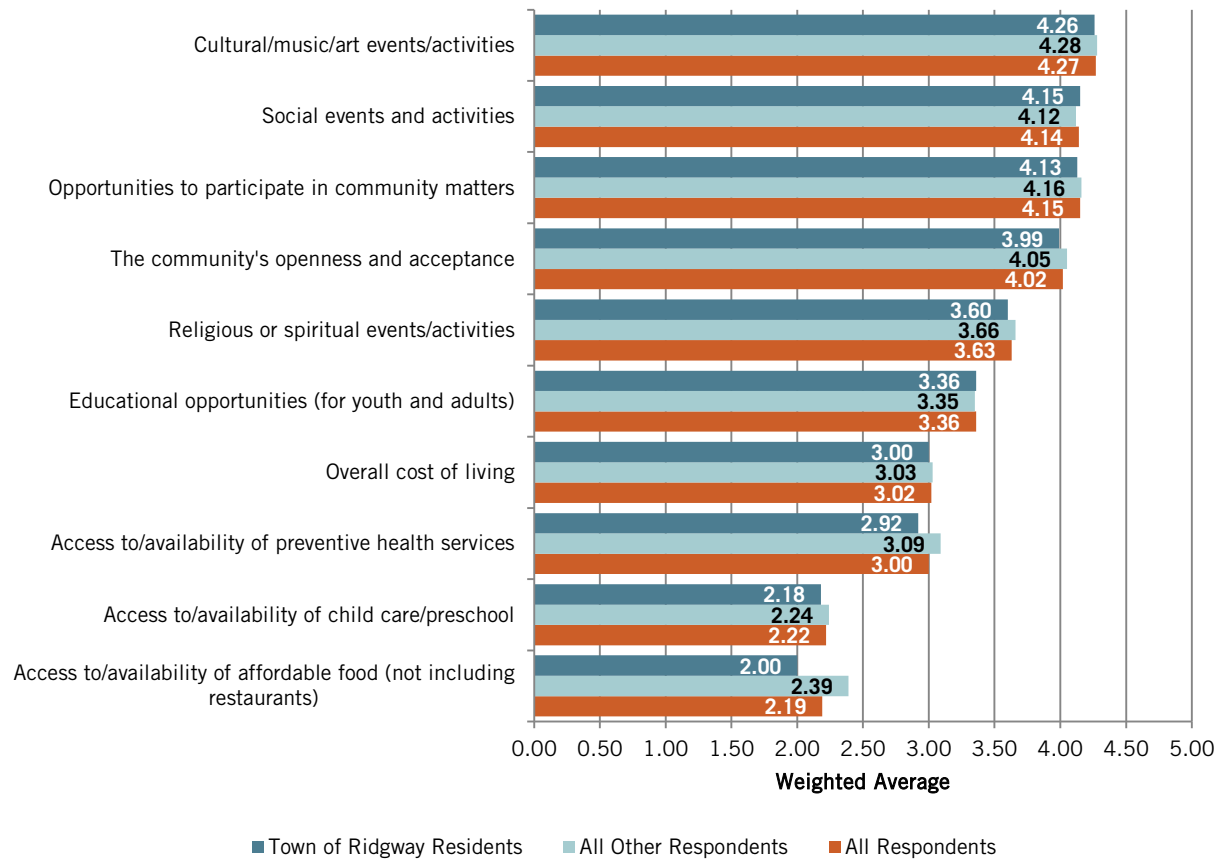
## Housing



## Economic Health



## Quality of Life



**Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years? (Summary of detailed comments)**

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Housing	128	117
Economic Development	122	119
Land Use & Built Environment	108	91
Transportation & Mobility	46	32
Community	44	34
Health & Wellbeing	40	32
Infrastructure & Public Services	31	27
Local Government	20	11
Natural Environment	20	11
Education	16	17
Historic & Cultural	10	7
Parks, Trails, and Open Space	10	7
Arts & Culture	3	1

Common themes in the open-ended comments include:

- **Loss of community.** Many people, both Ridgway residents and non-residents, worry about Ridgway losing its character, its strong sense of community, and its small-town feel as the town grows. There is a strong concern that newcomers will be wealthy and will push out long-time residents, decreasing income diversity.
- **Cost of living/jobs.** The lack of well-paying job opportunities and the rising cost of living are huge concerns for residents and non-residents of Ridgway. Other economic concerns include the rise of tourism, the lack of an affordable grocery store, concerns over the influx of big box stores and franchises, and the growing marijuana industry.
- **Access to services.** The main concerns for health & well-being included the lack of an affordable grocery store, the lack of child care options, access to health care facilities, and drug and substance abuse issues.
- **Rural character/heritage.** Both residents and non-residents expressed concern for the loss of the town's historic rural character and the need to protect ranch land, open spaces, the town's agricultural heritage, and historic buildings.
- **Housing costs.** Housing was one of the largest topics discussed in response to this question. Both residents and non-residents are very concerned about rising housing costs and the lack of affordable housing, especially for teachers, first responders, public employees, and other vital members of the workforce. Many people expressed concern that they would not be able to purchase a home or that they would be forced to leave Ridgway due to the increase in rent

and cost of living. Many people are concerned with the influx of wealthy newcomers, as well as the increase of short term rentals.

- **Infrastructure and public services.** Paving streets and providing reliable high speed internet service were cited, as was a concern that there is a lack of public services and infrastructure needed to support current levels of growth.
- **Rate and extent of growth.** Residents and non-residents are worried that rapid development is changing the town's character and damaging the natural environment. Residents and non-residents alike are deeply concerned about the fast pace of growth in Ridgway and the surrounding areas. People are worried that the rapid development is changing the town's character and damaging the natural environment.
- **Environmental protection.** Climate change adaptation and mitigation, water resources, fire danger and drought, preservation of dark skies and open space, and environmentally sustainable growth were all cited as concerns.
- **Transportation and mobility.** Traffic and parking were their top concern for many respondents. A smaller number of respondents mentioned the need for public transportation and bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure.

**Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues? (Summary of detailed comments)**

TOPIC	TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESPONSES	NON-RESIDENT RESPONSES
Housing	119	83
Land Use & Built Environment	82	72
Economic Development	63	65
Natural Environment	50	44
Transportation & Mobility	48	31
Infrastructure & Public Services	38	40
Local Government	32	19
Health & Wellbeing	31	19
Parks, Trails, and Open Space	27	24
Community	21	18
Education	11	11
Arts & Culture	10	7
Historic & Cultural	3	3
Miscellaneous	1	5

Common themes in the open-ended comments include:

- **Affordable housing.** Respondents want access to more affordable housing for working families. Ideas cited by respondents as ways to achieve this vary, but included subsidies for rental housing, donating land for affordable housing construction, inclusionary zoning, deed

restricted housing, allowing for smaller housing units, and limiting short-term rentals, to name only a few.

- **Community involvement.** A more diverse community, more cohesion and unity, encouraging more community involvement and civic engagement, and more community events, services, and philanthropy.
- **Growth management.** Land use and the built environment were identified as the second largest opportunity to explore through the Master Plan process. The majority of these responses concern how to limit growth and development, stop urban sprawl, maintain the small-town character of Ridgway, and how to encourage density and infill development in the right places.
- **Tourism/economic development.** A chief concern is the creation of jobs, particularly high-paying jobs. Another frequently cited opportunity is programs that support the opening and expansion of small locally-owned businesses. While some respondents support increasing tourism for the sake of economic growth, many other residents want to restrict tourism and new residents in order to preserve the town's authentic character. Several responses mention concern about what is perceived as a proliferation of dispensaries.
- **Access to services/care.** Responses in this category vary considerably and in some cases conflict. While some respondents desire larger more affordable stores, many others want to keep the community free of chain businesses and instead support locally-owned businesses. Opportunities related to health and well-being include access to better medical care, affordable grocery options, day care services, and housing for the elderly were also cited.
- **Infrastructure and public services.** Opportunities for high-speed internet service, paving the roads, better maintenance and/or improvements to existing infrastructure were all cited.
- **Sustainable development practices.** The natural environment was identified as the fourth biggest opportunity for the Master Plan process. Many of these responses are concerned with sustainable management of water resources, climate change, fire mitigation, and renewable energy use.
- **Transportation and mobility.** One of the most commonly cited opportunities was the need for a bypass that would reroute the highway outside of town and cut down on through-traffic. Other opportunities mentioned include increased downtown parking, better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and public transportation to nearby towns such as Montrose and Telluride.

## VISITORS AND TOURIST RESPONSES

Visitors and tourists primarily hailed from out-of-state destinations. Texas, Massachusetts, California, and New Mexico were most common responses to Question 38, “Where are you visiting from?” All of the visitors were repeat visitors, having visited Ridgway more than once and over three-quarters of the visitors (76%) said they had visited Ridgway more than 10 times. Most visitors indicated that they were staying overnight. Only about 15% of visitors reported only visiting for the day. The primary ways that visitors heard about Ridgway was through previous visits, through family or friends, and by stopping while driving through Ridgway.

Vacation/recreation was the primary purpose to visit Ridgway, followed by visiting family and/or friends. Several visitors mentioned that they were actually visiting Ridgway in order to look at properties for future purchase. Top activities visitors planned to partake in within Ridgway include eating at a restaurant/drinking at a bar, sightseeing and visiting other areas near Ridgway, hiking, shopping, and attending local events.

When asked what they liked about visiting Ridgway, visitors mentioned the food (including local restaurants and the farmer’s market) most frequently. Arts & cultural activities and the beauty of the natural environment and local parks and trails were the next most popular responses. Finally, many visitors mentioned the small town charm and the friendliness of the local community as things they liked about Ridgway.

Negative aspects of the visitor experience included issues with infrastructure and public services, especially the unpaved roads and the lack of reliable cable and internet service. Transportation and mobility issue were also mentioned frequently, including the amount of highway traffic and the distance from a large airport. Economic development issues were also front and center in visitors’ minds, with visitors mentioning the lack of a large grocery store, the high real estate prices, and the marijuana stores, as negative aspects of Ridgway. However, despite these negatives, 100% of visitors said that they would visit Ridgway again or recommend it as a destination to their family, friends, and neighbors. All visitors were between the ages of 35 and 64.

## PART 2: DETAILED COMMENTS

This section contains responses to “other” questions asked in the multiple choice questions from the previous section as well as free response comments submitted by survey responses.

Responses for each question are grouped into general topics or themes.

### Q1: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHERE YOU LIVE?

#### Future Resident

- Live in Denver, but my boyfriend is currently building in Ridgway
- Looking to retire in Ridgway
- We are currently living in Ouray but are working on plans to build our house on our lot in the town of Ridgway.
- In between houses. Used to rent in Ouray, want to live in Ridgway.

#### Idlewild

- Idlewild Estates
- Idlewilde
- Idlewild Subdivision
- Idlewild, Ouray County

#### Miscellaneous

- Piedmont Hills
- neighboring county
- Water utility providing services to Log Hill Village
- Uncompaghe River Frontage
- Hastings Mesa
- Elk ridge trail. Idlewood estates
- San Miguel County on Hastings Mesa

#### Ouray County

- County Road 5 - On Town Water.
- County

- East CR 24 across from Dallas Creek, base of LogHill
- Between Ridgway and Ouray
- Hastings Mesa- the north side- Dallas Divide side
- Ponderosa Village/Portland Townsite area
- CR 24 (east Pleasant Valley across from Dallas Creek)
- County road 24
- Between Ouray and Ridgway
- Portland
- County Road 23, Ridgway
- County Road 5 North

#### Own Property

- Own house in Solar Ranch-is rented full time to disabled. Am familiar with area.
- Own family home in Ridgway
- Visitor but own land in Ouray County.

### Q2: THINKING ABOUT YOUR RESPONSE TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A RIDGWAY RESIDENT?

#### Future Resident

- Landowner, future resident
- Future resident
- Visitor/future resident
- Wannabe full time resident!
- Full time resident starting in 2019

- We will be building a home Eagle Hill. We purchased the lot already. Ridgway will be our primary home address.

### Miscellaneous

- Real estate broker
- Property Owner

### Previous Resident

- just sold
- Have lived in Ridgway previously and work at a business that has location in Ridgway
- Montrose county previous Ridgway
- Previous resident

### Seasonal/Traveling

- Seasonal worker and part time resident, but I consider Ridgway my long term home
- We travel a lot, but this is our home
- Annual vacationer
- Half plus year resident
- Live here more than half the year
- split time between Telluride & Ridgway
- Live 8 months of the year in the area

### Work in Ridgway

- Employed in Ridgway
- Work in Ridgway
- employee
- Work here, live someplace else.
- Employee of Ouray County and drive here
- Work full time in the community
- Work in the Town of Ridgway
- Have lived in Ridgway previously and work at a business that has location in Ridgway

## Q3: WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO RIDGWAY?

### Small Town/Rural Character

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

- The old west, ranching lifestyle
- smaller population than Montrose, being able to walk to post office, library, restaurants, town offices, closer to hiking, skiing (xc, back country, and alpine), mountains in general, cooler climate
- I recently left another small Colorado community that is now being considered another Boulder....such a shame. Unchecked growth and the greed of a few Town Trustees that had/have a conflict of interest.
- Small scale, quality of life and economic feasibility . . .
- We previously lived in Boulder, Colorado. Increasingly Boulder was losing its charm. We left because it was becoming too big, too pretentious, and not the town it used to be.
- Moved for a boyfriend, stayed for the small town unique lifestyle that I appreciate.
- Ridgway was a ranching and farming community, a town, not a city.
- I have lived all over Colorado but have chosen Ridgway because of its friendly small town charm, inspired people and proximity to majestic peaks.
- Western heritage and ranching. Conservative history
- Opportunity to walk to destinations in town (post office, town of Ridgway, church and stores.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Historical locations and buildings.



- Husband wanted to move back to Colorado where he was raised (Greeley) but I wanted to be more rural and we stumbled onto Ouray County.
- Small town community. peace and quiet free of standard town attitudes that dictate growth, growth, growth and the understood mandate....never rethinking.
- We wanted an agricultural lifestyle.
- Dirt side streets
- Ridgway town vibe. Close to Montrose and regional airport and shopping
- We moved from NYC to Ridgway 44 years ago to learn ranching.
- Live in Phoenix, AZ. Metro area is so big with over 3 million people. 6 more years before retirement. Can't wait to get to Ridgway full-time. We go as often as possible. Just love it.
- Loved the historical attributes of towns. Ranching, Mining roads in mt., Farming.

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

- I knew people in the area. Telluride Chamber of Commerce recommended Ridgway.
- Ridgway was small and funky when I arrived in 2001. It was a place where I felt I could become part of the community.
- I originally moved here because of the diversity of people and the quiet town.
- We also moved here because it is a progressive town that cares about the environment, social justice etc.
- Great community and great people.
- Progressive town management plan. A great library.

- Lots of my friends live here now. I lived in Telluride 27 years and love more sunshine, new hikes, a warm, progressive community and being closer to Montrose.
- 1988 - Arrived in Ridgway on the way to LA. Discovered a place that was out-of-the-way, not self-important; did not take itself seriously. Just good people helping a young couple adjust from the big city. Hard times and good times came and went and the town is now a bedroom community for T-ride; high prices, fancy cars, and snooty people looking down their noses at the long-time locals. Not a nice place anymore.
- Great community. Lots of families. Good school. Progressive town looking towards future development responsibly. Great location in SW Colorado. Proximity to mountain and desert recreation. Mountain views.

### NON-RESIDENTS

- We love Ridgway and the surrounding communities just the way they are.
- Friends
- A community I liked and felt matched my values yet had some diversity. Also close enough to a major airport to make international travel still reasonable.
- It is a true ranch community

## Family

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

- I grew up here.
- Family moved here when I was a child
- Got married to a gal who lived and worked here.
- Family moved here when I was 5
- I grew up here, but I was not born here
- Married someone from here

- join existing resident

#### **NON-RESIDENTS**

- Partner bought a business in Ridgway, so relocated there.
- Estate contract of my parents
- Raise kids in a small town so they could attend a school with relatively small class sizes without sacrificing quality of education.

### **Housing/Real Estate**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS**

- Ridgway WAS affordable it's not now, and its quickly LOOSING the small town character and becoming a tourist trap , and losing the feeling of the local government being on the towns peoples side who invested money and in the community and being more concerned with all the visitors
- Building a house here, now work for local utility
- Real Estate Investment Opportunities
- I lived on Hastings Mesa for over 30 years, using both Telluride and Ridgway as my communities. Once I decided I needed to be in less isolated location, I chose Ridgway which is obviously more affordable than telluride.
- Moved to Telluride 8-years ago for a job. Can no longer afford to live in Telluride. Purchased condo in Ridgway.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Was more affordable...the year after I moved here, rental prices skyrocketed.
- I have owned property in Ridgway for over 25 years
- Moved from telluride in 1995. I had a dog and wanted her to have a yard and could only afford a condo in tride

- Grew up in Ouray. Have always kept an anchor in these communities but cannot afford to live there.

### **Location**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS**

- Small town with proximity to other towns, the mountain and the desert.
- Close to family (Norwood/ Durango) but not too close. So location.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- I feel fortunate to have moved to the region almost 27 years ago. I have lived on Hastings Mesa for over 20 years and really enjoy having a foot in both the Ridgway and Telluride communities.
- Work from home, have a business in Grand Junction.
- It is where we do most of our activities: restaurants, post office & services

### **Nature/Outdoor Recreation**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS**

- The sun shines!
- But I am retired now and the surrounding landscape, recreational opportunities and human community are why I stay!!!
- Dark night skies, Schools

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Most beautiful place in the world
- Dark skies and stars
- Horses
- Environmentally healthy and non-toxic. Health reasons. Love the towns charm and character. John Wayne, wildflowers, Nature/Outdoor Recreation, horses, clean air, art and wonderful food options. A place to renew ones soul. Of course all of the outside activities.

- Orvis Hot Springs.
- Access to amazing public lands!

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Schools

### NON-RESIDENTS

- The school!
- Great schools for my kids.
- For a schools with smaller class sizes.
- Schools

## Job

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

- We moved here more than 30 years ago, because we were offered jobs by family

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

- Bought a business in Ridgway
- second career
- Working in Montrose
- Bought a business. Inn & restaurant
- Purchased a Business
- Activities of our nonprofit
- Work in Ouray County
- I sell real estate (Commercial) in Town and enjoy the social, business, friendly environment
- Business

## Q4: IN YOUR OWN WORDS, FEEL FREE TO SHARE WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO RIDGWAY?

## Business/Amenities

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Really liked the Little Chef restaurant too.
- All of the above plus the proximity to St. Daniel's Church, the Hot Springs, ROCC and friendly people.
- I have many friends in Telluride, where I used to live and wanted to move back. Ridgway is closer to an airport that convinced me to buy lots.

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Community involvement, progressive ideas, improvements to the town and lifestyle for all of us
- "Community" is most important to us. The people we have made friends with who live/work in Ridgway, across the full socio-economic spectrum, were the main driver to move here. We had been here 1/2 time since 2012. When looking towards full time retirement and if the winter should be somewhere warm, after lots of looking we finally realized Ridgway was the only place we wanted to be because of the people. Add to that the small mountain town character and the scenery, well, we made the move to full time.
- The community, the location, the proximity to outdoor access and the San Juan Mountains, and the affordability to be a home owner.
- I moved here to raise my children in a place where they could be kids.

- The amazing community of strong independent women who were psyched to adventure in the mountains.
- Ridgway is a town that I feel embraces all that I value: open spaces, a community that cares and gets involved in its community affairs, supports and values the long standing agriculture community, was close to the national forest and river and understands that the majority of the residents work here or in the surrounding area and look to provide them long-term housing options and is working to follow the International Dark Sky Associations criteria to preserve the night sky.
- Migration from Telluride 25+ years ago. Real people, sense of community.
- Fell in love with the area when I first visited 45 years ago. Even more every time I visited. The scenery, sense of community and abundant music are my favorite things here.
- Having lived and worked in Montrose for most of my professional life, I had a chance to watch Ridgway change and develop from close by, so after my retirement we were easily hooked by everything we saw happening in Ridgway.
- Initially the scenic beauty, but after a few years of full time living here.....the sense of community.
- Incredible community
- Friendly, welcoming community.
- "Live and let live" mentality. Sense of community. Give and take. No more rules or ordinances than necessary. Unfortunately, I already see that changing.

#### **NON-RESIDENTS**

- Friends

- I feel fortunate to have moved to the region almost 27 years ago. I have lived on Hastings Mesa for over 20 years and really enjoy having a foot in both the Ridgway and Telluride communities for work, recreation, and community.
- It is a place I have always felt embodied my values, interests, and sense of community.
- Positive attitude!
- The wholesome small town community and natural beauty.
- Not only were the people we met very friendly and welcoming, but we felt that the town (and a large portion of the people in it) shared many of our values - a concern for environmental issues, a love for outdoor recreation, a love for various artistic, spiritual, and entrepreneurial pursuits, less interest in commercialism and the latest fads and more concern for relationships between people, a town that seems to really value its residents and their quality of life and not just potential profits, a generally slower pace, the ability to walk/ride a bike almost anywhere.
- All the boxes ticked above + it seemed like an open minded, high-consciousness community.

#### **Education**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My husband had dreamed of living here for 20 years, and the schools are much better funded and had better leadership than those in Montrose.

##### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Great schools, small town

## Family

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Born and raised
- My wife and the sun
- FAMILY
- Family and a job opportunity
- My parents! They were looking to get out of the city and be in a small town. We had vacationed through the area previously and they liked the area.
- To make a home with my wife and her children, mainly. I had previously owned land here and lived in Montrose and had been familiar with the community and the area for many years. thought it was a good fit
- My mother in law.
- My family moved here in 1991 when I was 5 years old, I graduated from Ridgway High School. We used to live in Telluride but could not afford a home there, and my brother needed to be closer to Montrose due to a medical condition.
- formed family with existing resident

### NON-RESIDENT

- My family has called Ouray County home for the last 25 years and more.
- I felt that it's a good, safe place to raise my son
- My husband who was raised in Montrose.
- Perfect to raise kids, ours went to Ouray school.
- My husband really wanted to live here and I can work remotely
- My wife's family is from Montrose, we moved here 6 yrs. ago. We got married in Ridgway, the party and rehearsal was also in Ridgway. It's a beautiful place.

- Have family there, love the town, purchase our retirement home in Log Hill and spend 6 weeks a year here currently. I would live to work for the Town and move early.
- Safety, nice outdoors. Kids
- Grew up here and moved back to raise our kids and open a business.
- Family history on Western Slope for many years. Hotchkiss, Paonia, Eckert, Delta. I lived/worked in Carbondale/Glenwood Springs 1986-1990

## Housing

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Born and raised in Telluride, we couldn't afford to buy a home there. Had not considered Ridgway, but it was an amazing decision to buy here in 2014. We still commute to Telluride to work.
- We moved here from Ouray when housing became too expensive there. That was back in 2003. Now the housing is almost worse here.
- I work in Telluride, but could not afford to buy a house there, so we settled on Ridgway. Love it!
- Lived in Ophir, ready to buy a home and could not afford it there
- I've lived in Telluride and Durango alternating seasonally for work since 2010. I did a little math and it was less expensive to build a new house in Ridgway than it was to rent in Telluride.
- I lived in Telluride + Ophir for 13+ years but realized I would never be able to afford a nice home there. Also, I liked the idea of living in a town that was more real and less touristy.
- Affordable, non-touristy town

- Work in Telluride, affordable, good schools, family-kids in community.
- I lived in Ophir for 15 years and 5 years in Telluride before that. Ridgway was more affordable in 2005 and now that we have kids I realize how family sweet it is.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- recession of 2008
- I formerly lived in Ouray. I could not find a house/lot that was in my price range that provided plenty of room when I wanted to move from my condo. I did not enjoy the annual summer invasion of motorcycle groups, nor living close to Highway 550. Also, living in a box canyon made for a dreary winter. Finally, Ouray was feeling less & less like a community.
- Near a ski town, but in one. Much more affordable than other parts of Colorado

### **Job**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- A job opportunity with the US Forest Service and opportunity to live in a thriving small town near the mountains amidst a stunning landscape.
- husband found a job here - moved from Ridgway
- Natural Gas company brought main lines into Ouray County and I had to live within a twenty minute response time from the office.
- I was looking for a new place to live and stumbled upon Ridgway and loved it and was lucky enough to find a great job that kept me here
- I'm a mountain guide, and I moved from Telluride when my job moved to Ouray County from San Miguel County.

- We moved to Ridgway sight unseen for my partner's dream job and knew within a few weeks that we wanted to put down roots here -- the combination of the town's culture and the exceptional natural beauty!
- We moved here because of a requested transfer and a better place to raise kids.
- My wife took a job in Ridgway.
- Employment

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- My boyfriend got a job here.
- I live half way between Ridgway and Montrose. A job opportunity with the Ridgway school district was a chance I could not pass up. I would live in Ridgway if I could afford it.
- Work
- Work
- My wife and I are camp hosts at Ridgway State park for Five months.
- Work and play
- Found a job in my field (solar), that was in a small and somewhat affordable mountain town.
- We bought The Apothecary Shoppe in Nucla and have now started Stacie's Apothecary Shoppe a pharmacy in Ridgway

### **Location**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My husband and I both have remote jobs. We were sick of living in Denver and chose Ridgway because it is the perfect combination of scenery; access to the mountains, affordable compared to similar towns, and is not a resort community with the associated headaches (traffic, crowding, etc.). We

also like the convenience of having Montrose nearby (big grocery store, etc.).

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Looked for: Close to an airport. Close to downhill skiing. Snowcapped mountain vistas. Liked the feel, atmosphere, and friendliness of the community
- Relocated to Ridgway initially and rented for three years. Purchasing a home there was outside of our budget, so ended up buying and moving to Montrose.
- The proximity to Montrose, Ridgway, Ouray, and Telluride. Weather and Scenery
- I love that Ridgway is centrally located, yet isolated. Also, hot springs. I love them. And I love the art community here.
- The beauty, the recreation and the small mountain town appeal besides employment. I said a few. Years back, "If I could live anywhere in Colorado, it would be Ridgway." My new employer made it possible.
- We looked at a number of places before deciding where to end up and loved this area.
- Central Location
- Proximity to both big mountains and the Utah canyon country. The nice small town feel with the amenities of Montrose reasonably close. The progressiveness of a town and county wanting to protect its natural beauty.
- Location, community, rural atmosphere.
- I love the central location, yet isolated feel.
- My wife is 4th generation CO and we wanted to stay in what is still CO. After looking ALL over the State this is the BEST place to live!!!
- great location, scale & vibe

#### **Miscellaneous**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My to-be wife lived in town already and I was stoked to move to an amazing mountain community!
- match.com
- a good looking woman
- I've been trying to make the move here for 6 years... was in Telluride for 14 years before finally making the move.
- I am a part for the student body so I believe that I bring the youth perspective to Ridgway
- We loved this town from the moment we saw it (and it just keeps getting better)!
- Found our perfect spot.
- I found myself in Ridgway while following 550 from Delta towards the mountains. I stopped and had coffee here and basically never wanted to leave.
- A snow storm stranded me here- then I soaked at Orvis and had breakfast at Kate's. Decided to buy a lot and build here
- We lived a mile north of the Ouray Co. border for decades. We had been coming here for years and always loved this valley.
- My husband and I moved here for many reasons. We believe that the Western Slope is the last best part of Colorado. I was born and raised in Colorado, and my husband has been here since 1991. So, we feel like we know what we're talking about. The small town life style is unbeatable. The access to skiing is excellent. Both Red Mountain pass and Telluride offer amazing skiing. We chose this area to be close to Telluride for festivals, especially great music, and also for work. While we don't always love the



commute, it is definitely one of the prettiest drives in the world. And, the wages are so much higher in Telluride. Being in service industries, we knew we needed to be close to a place where we could make a real living. I know some people are able to do that in Ridgway, but many are not able to. I assume we will get to this later in the survey.

- We were contacted by a Ridgway resident and business owner inquiring about some property we owned in Mexico that they wanted to buy. We came to talk about it in the fall of 1988 and serendipitous events led to us moving here permanently and starting the Ridgway Gallery.
- Specifically, our former life crashed in the economic downturn ('07-'09) when my partner's chronic illness spiked, making him unable to work. The insurance policies we thought we held to protect us, if something happened, fought fulfilling our needs both medically and economically. We arrived here at the bottom.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- It is a magical place!
- I long had thought this was the prettiest part of the state so when my husband said he wanted to live in a smaller community than Boulder and we learned good friends were planning on moving here, we looked for our new situation.
- Other

#### **Natural Environment**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My wife and I are both "mountain people" as both of us have quite our jobs several times to hike long distance trails. We knew when we were going to retire but we didn't know where to. Research and

"field trips" determined that Ridgway seemed a perfect choice. It has proven to be just that.

- The quiet humble nature of Ridgway was the main draw for my family and me. A rare and precious community in today's world
- The San Juans! Beautiful mountains and a relaxed, mellow town.
- The beauty of the mountains and the progressiveness of Ridgway.
- I was drawn here first by the mountains and scenery. As I lived, worked, and played here, I got to know the people. That was when Ridgway became my home.
- The natural beauty and mountain lifestyle
- The mountains
- The natural beauty that so far has been very well preserved and a wonderful small yet well rounded community.
- Primarily the scenery associated with the San Juan Mountains.
- Good Ice Climbing and back country skiing, the San Juans
- Initially the views. The location. I love the mountain ranges in this area. I love that it is not near Denver and not as congested as the Front Range.
- I moved here for the mountains and the ice climbing years ago, and stayed for the community.
- The natural beauty surrounding town, the people.
- mountains scenery snow friends
- It is not a ski town but it is surrounded by beautiful mountains.
- We had the choice to live anywhere we wanted. But we choose Ridgway because of the proximity to the mountains, weather, small town character,



affordability, and its proximity to the desert southwest.

- climbing and skiing
- The mountains were calling me and this area is absolutely gorgeous.
- The quality of the environment; both in terms of people and the quietly amazing surroundings (not in-your-face like you know where...). It is now being raped and killed. Thanks.
- The weather, the views, the progressive town, and my good experiences I had vacationing/riding horses.
- The abundance of outdoor activity, small town and the inherent uniqueness Ridgway offers.
- Awe inspiring views and minimal tourist craziness
- Aside from the scenery, Ridgway is centrally located between Ouray, Telluride and Montrose with ready access to the mountains and those mountain town recreation opportunities and relatively easy access to necessary amenities like the hospital in Montrose.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The views are spectacular, sunshine, and rainbows!
- It is a great blessing for me to live in an area of such natural beauty!!
- "The natural beauty and recreational activities as well as the wonderful climate. (before it became so hot)"
- We vacationed here and decided to retire here because of the beauty and having everything we love in our backyard. We love small town and the people. The arts, the park, and the business are owned by local people, not corporations.
- The climate, the mountains, the people, the small town environment. Ridgway is

the perfect size and close to other small towns and Montrose for shopping.

- The unprecedented beauty of the area as well as the amazing community of people.
- We came to this area every summer to camp and hike. We also went to RMNP and other areas, but always preferred the southwestern slope because it was isolated, fewer tourists and the scenery is the best.
- The beautiful country atmosphere, and a place filled with good people San Juan Mountains
- Open space Natural beauty Nearby golf course
- From Florida and loved the mountains. Ridgway was the specific draw because of the Ranching and Railroad history and small town feel.
- Natural beauty, mountains, golf course, trails for walking and biking, near a ski area but not in a ski town, close to the airport with easy connections to Denver and elsewhere.
- It's beautiful
- The simple untouched beauty of the area. Ouray County has done a great job with develop and planning for growth. Some Ouray County has avoided the mistakes of other mountain communities by funneling growth to low visible areas.
- The San Juan mountains
- Raised my family in Ouray and after my son graduated we moved to Ridgway for more sun. Otherwise I consider myself a resident of the County not really from one town or the other.
- I spent a lot of time vacationing in Ouray as a child. I lived in Ouray for a couple of years, but I needed more sunshine and more space. I moved to Ridgway.

- Mountains yet not as harsh winters as Telluride. Closer to amenities. Small town feel.
- Beauty, community, the mountains
- The beauty
- First visited Ouray County in 1984 & through the years never found a more beautiful place to settle
- The San Juan Mountains looked very much like to Alps in Southern Germany near where I was stationed in the Army in Germany (Augsburg)
- I grew up in Gunnison County and always was drawn to the San Juan Mountains and funkiness of Ridgway.
- The hot springs and the mountains brought me here, but the incredible sense of community keeps me here.
- We moved to Ridgway on a temporary basis because of the scenery and outdoors activities, but decided to become permanent residents after getting to know the community and its resources.
- Low key atmosphere close to skiing
- We were driving around Colorado and were struck by the beauty of Ridgway and the community feeling of the downtown, so we decided to settle here.
- Fell in love with the environment and atmosphere.
- the San Juan mountains
- The beautiful mountains, clean air, friendly, educated professional, creative people who live here, low crime, sunny skies.
- The spectacular mountains and valleys. Small town feel.

## Small Town Character

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Small town, dirt streets, 450 people, nature
- I moved here for the small town, scenery, proximity to amazing mountains and quality of life.
- We have lived in Colorado for most of the last 40 years, mostly on the Front Range. The growth in the Front Range in the last 20 years has been exponential, and we wanted a smaller community and a lower-intensity environment.
- "I had lived on the Front Range for twenty years and grew to despise the traffic, pollution, road fixing, and "yuppie" life style. I looked for something peaceful and simple and found Ridgway.
- "nice community, close to mountains
- Ridgway felt like a "real" town, not just a resort or tourist destination. That's something I think we need to work very hard on to maintain as the inevitable growth happens.
- I want to live in the San Juan Mountains in a small town.
- Small town, progressive values, clean air and water, quality of daily life
- It's a rural, low-key mountain town that has reasonable access to Montrose for affordable groceries and other services and Telluride for additional recreation and economic/job opportunities. It's a somewhat balanced or blended location in terms of political sentiment, and it has its own character.
- A place to operate my business, the great sunshine and the small rural town atmosphere
- Small town values.

- In 1979, it was a small town, off the beaten track, of beauty and character.
  - We lived in Telluride from 2006-2016, and became more and more frustrated with the hectic nature, insane politics, and big money dictates policy of that town. Ridgway represented a chance for us to, once again, own our own single family residence with open space around us. We also cherish the ranching history and like the down to earth lifestyle in this area. People are friendly and easy to meet. We like the peace and serenity of our home.
  - We, I, fell in love with Ridgway. The quirkiness, the roughness, and the authentic small town mountain living.
  - After 12 years I left Telluride for a more “realistic” lifestyle.
  - The size, the water, the area around Ridgway.
  - Farming and Ranching
  - Desire to raise a family in a small town.
  - It's a town with an attitude much like ours, and it is in a beautiful, quiet(er) part of Colorado. Being close to Orvis Hot Springs was a huge draw, also.
  - The small town feel where there is a river, mtn biking trails, close to skiing and ice climbing. Enjoy being able to walk to things like bars, entertainment in parks, post office and grocery stores.
  - Rural lifestyle
  - Sunshine. The absolute perfect climate. Small town lifestyle. It's the center of my universe.
  - Small ranching town totally unique, not a tourist town but a home.
  - 40 years ago, it felt low key here, and off the beaten track. And it was very affordable, with lots of empty houses.
  - that it is small, beautiful and represented the kind of San Juan Mt lifestyle of simplicity and outdoor recreation that we love
  - As a single woman in my early 30s I was searching for a peaceful place to write my book. A friend offered to rent me their place in Ridgway and I immediately feel in love with the place and the people. I am now looking to buy and make this a part-time home.
  - Close to ski area, but not a resort town. Lots of recreational opportunities. Good schools. More progressive than surrounding communities.
  - Beautiful small town with lots of families with kids, and I love love love the ranches in the area. Love being surrounded by lots of open land.
  - small, quiet, humble town with a lively ranching community, cows, and lack of exclusivity
- NON-RESIDENT**
- Wanted out of big city craziness and into a school where my kids could be more than just a number
  - The beauty and peacefulness. The “place”. The mountains. The pastures. The wide open spaces. The small town.
  - Loved the area unspoiled by out of control building on the mountain landscape
  - This area has always been one of our favorite places in CO. Had lived many years in Denver and wanted a quieter and more scenic lifestyle
  - "Moved from Breckenridge to junction hated it ,came down here to camp once moved to Ridgway a couple months later,21 years ago.

- We love the small, rustic, authentic town feel with year round recreational activities
- While we live 3 miles south of Ridgway, we consider it "our town", have our PO Box there, volunteer in the community and enjoy visiting. The town has largely retained its character as we first found it in 1976 but is rapidly evolving now. More rules about what one can and cannot do. We don't wish to see the town to lose what we love about it; friendly neighbors, respectful, inclusive and welcoming.
- Peaceful, quiet small town.
- I'm from Montrose and it is too big now
- I wanted to live in a small mountain town, where I could get to the desert, but also close enough to my family that I could be there when they need me.
- I like the small town vibes.
- I love a small community and Ridgway's location is perfect. I can hike Telluride, Ouray, and Silverton area and have the shopping conveniences of Montrose.
- Ridgway is mostly as it has always been. It is a small town, full of ranchers and farmers, who love the land. It isn't big city or have big city people ruining it.
- A genuine mountain town in the San Juans that has not yet been exploited or over-developed like so many other Colorado mountain towns.
- Lived in Telluride for 11 years and moved here for a smaller community
- It was a coincidence that while on a road trip we came upon this gem of a town We have the Ridgway bug now and are trying to find a way to live there for good. Finding a job there is the issue.
- I was born and raised in Montrose, always wanted to be in Ridgway Area as I grew up
- Small mountain town country life style. I loved the combination of mountains and ranch history
- Old western town atmosphere.
- Town size and artistic community. Preservation of ranching and Ouray county commitment to freedom
- It's the perfect way of life in a perfect setting
- I first came through Ridgway in the early 1980's, and was amazed. 35 years later, I finally made the dream a reality by moving here. Let's keep it small and friendly!
- Small town, scenery, vacationed here, mountain lifestyle, dark sky, quietness
- We relocated here from what use to be a small mountain town with lots of character. Ridgway reminded us so much of that place we immediately felt at home here. Our town had lost its heart and soul, replaced by amenities and conveniences that the visitors and new homeowners felt they had to have, even though the reason they visited had nothing to do with those services. I like the slow pace, knowing everyone in the shops, library, post office, etc. I like the peace and quiet and lack of traffic. It goes without saying that the wildlife and natural beauty are the heartbeat of the area and if it is destroyed by overuse and development we will become just another town without a soul. Ridgway is unique and just about everyone I know feels incredibly lucky to be here. I hope planning will be forward thinking enough to realize that immediate financial rewards can do damage that cannot be undone and will shape the town forever. "Once you let the fox into the hen house, you can't get him out."

- I very much like the area, the town, and the beautiful scenery.
- small town, close community, low crime, mountain beauty, peace, quiet
- The small town nature of our Ouray County communities and the unspoiled natural beauty of our mountains are of unparalleled importance to me. Development, that occurs too fast and without regard for the maintenance of quality of life for those of us who already have chosen to live here, is our greatest threat. Recent (last few years) issues have suggested that some relative newcomers are seeing a personal gold mine in unlimited development and they must be stopped in their selfish endeavors. We have to be ever vigilant to threats to our quality of life as it has been historically.
- Small population, low crime rate, dark skies, wild life.

## Q5: WHAT KEEPS YOU HERE? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

### Arts/Culture

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Great food!
- For such a small town, there is a lot to enjoy in terms of culture and activities (example: all the events in the town park).
- The focus on art and quality of life is incredible.
- Local music scene is exceptional.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Music, arts and good restaurants.
- Strong public library district
- The arts and music.
- Arts and music.

### Community

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- It is not easy to move once settled; really like my neighbors
- It's my home
- Politics... we believe that we live with likeminded citizens and appreciate the mix of progressive thinking and social conscious.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Sense of community and common values, interesting people, can still hike trails in summer without being among hordes of people. Find peace and calm.
- The town of Ridgway is well run and is open to its community members when making decisions.
- The warm and caring community makes this a great place to raise children, as

well as the excellent teachers and school administrators at Ridgway Elementary School.

## Considering Moving/ Already Moved

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Leaving Ridgway shortly, as a young person, it is no longer affordable.
- Not much anymore. We still have some "friends" but they are millionaires. Or, would-be pot magnates. Looking to move somewhere where people still count and not the amenities = little benches...sculptures... Sherbino theatre, music in the park, fancy stores on a re-vamped Clinton St., CDOT owned and operated road for fast access and ease to T-Ride. The town has changed so much in so many ways that it is sad and distressing to see old friends become rich and materialistic.
- still in process of determining if I want to stay
- We cannot afford to escape Ridgway's insane growth based and esthetically/environmentally insulting movement.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Moved wasn't small quiet town anymore.
- I didn't stay.

## Investment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- At this point, it's the real estate. I've invested quite a bit and want to at least realize what I spent if I sell.
- We own a home here, which was/is critical to being able to stay here for many people, especially the many locals who have been here for a long time.

- too hard to pick up and move after building a business and a home here

### NON-RESIDENT

- Estate obligations
- Ongoing activities of our nonprofit
- Still own the business
- We invested too much on the house now we got stock.
- we own a house and a business

## Location & Schools

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Good school, lots of families and kids, great recreation location (desert, mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, canyons), affordable compared to other parts of Colorado and similarly desirable mountain towns across the West and U.S., access to Telluride, access to Montrose, access to Grand Junction, the weather/climate, etc.
- I consider all of southwest Colorado my home, and Ridgway has the best mixture of culture, mountain access, and cost of living in the region.
- I constantly travel for work.... and there's no better place to return home to. And it's an increasingly crazy world out there.... no thank you.

### NON-RESIDENT

- The schools
- The schools
- Ridgway is situated perfectly. There is Ouray, another small mountain town and Telluride is not far either. We love Telluride, but find it too large and it is getting like Aspen. Only the wealthy can afford to live there. I do not care for Mountain Village. It is pretentious and is a planned community that has no

character or soul, just lots of money and only a very few can live there. Ridgway has everything, small mountain town without any chain stores except for Family Dollar which fortunately, is not in the older section of town. Also, Montrose is close enough to do grocery shopping etc.... Ridgway is surrounded by outside activities that we love without the traffic and noise. I love the dirt roads in town and that there is only one stoplight.

- Proximity to other places like Ouray, Telluride, Montrose
- Central Location is why I still own property

## Miscellaneous

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I have a good job, one that not available to just anyone.
- I don't know the definition of 'mountain lifestyle' so I did not choose it.
- Best place EVER!
- It is important to me that I can find some work, and a place I can afford to live, because I still need to work and I am usually just getting by. No retirement or independent income. So these are critical issues, but as long as I can get by, that is good enough. In other words, beyond the basics, these issues are not as important as the others I am mentioning. Perhaps it is a quality of life vs. quantity issue.
- Ranches and rodeos, I love the western appeal!!
- Some part of all of the above...

### NON-RESIDENT

- Caring for elderly family member.
- Secondary School experience
- Other

## Natural Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Environmental awareness
- The amazingly beautiful dark starry night skies.
- I love the San Juan's.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Hot springs.
- No fracking in Ouray County
- We don't live there but love the balance of all that Ridgway offers us. Restaurants, outdoor activities, nature, beautiful drives and scenery. Not to forget the clean air.
- The blend of high/medium altitude, northern/southern ecology, much less traffic than just about anywhere else, and the somewhat kooky, irreverent and sincere way people live here.
- Clean air, water, Climate, and dark skies of western Colorado

## New Arrival

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- just moved
- I just got here in April. I am a retired homeowner in town.

## Small Town Character

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- What keeps me here has been what Ridgway was when I first moved here with my family. As I see higher real estate prices, more of a "Colorado Chic" feel, more development, BMW's, Mercedes, and Porches, my wife and I wonder how long we will want to stay here as the "down home feel" seems to get invaded and replaced by values that are influenced by a lot of money, privilege,

and exclusivity. We are becoming more like Telluride and I think this is a shame. I get angry and saddened as I see our precious town being swallowed by a growth mindset and pushing out working people and inviting wealth and second homeowners. I have seen friends already be pushed out of town by high rental and real estate prices. Our town seems to be affordable to people with family money or people who make their money elsewhere. I am grateful we were able to move here and buy a house when we did. There is no way we could afford to come into this housing market at this point..... Check your privilege.

- Same attributes that brought me here in 2001. It's very important that planning for the future maintains what is special about Ridgway.
- Much less of a tourist town than Ouray or Telluride. Let's keep it to the locals. Business will want tourism but this is not what locals want. Let's keep the community strong and consistent.
- The limited growth in the 20+ years I have been visiting friends in the area. I purchased a home in River Park a few years ago and now I'm retired and moving into it full time. I now have concerns how rapid Montrose is growing and hope we can keep that from happening in Ridgway.
- It is quiet (other than peak summer months), and I cherish that.
- I like walking to the post office, market, coffee shop, etc... I hate automobiles and Ridgway is small enough to stay out of my car and still do what I need and want to do

## NON-RESIDENT

- Ridgway is unique in setting and character. Some of the original ranching community is surviving, which is something I relate to. I come alive in the mountains.
- I'd leave in a heartbeat if the rest of Colorado was not exploited. I used to love Ridgway but because of all the commercialization and monetary driven exploitation of the area I've come to dislike Ridgway. It's upsetting because it has zero options for people who WORK in Ridgway to be able to afford Ridgway anymore. Tons of "entrepreneurs" who decide to make Ridgway their home. Ridgway has lost sight of its community atmosphere since there are no affordable eating establishments for locals who are just trying to stay afloat. GET RID OF MOUNTAIN MARKET!! All their food is expired and it's just an insult to our community. I'd never recommend Ridgway to friends thinking of moving because the town is a new Pebble (little elitist boulder) Stop trying to be a rich community without selling out to money and forgetting about your long long time locals. It's disgusting!
- The fact that the back roads are still dirt, and until fairly recently, you waved when you passed a car as you were driving less than 30 MPH. Open space and ranching is real and necessary to preserve.
- Ridgway continues to improve itself without losing small town character. Preserves and utilizes historic structures such as Sherbino. Serious about light pollution ordinances and enforcement. Dark skies are appreciated just like the clear air and mountains. Very quiet town without noisy industry and traffic.



## Q6: WHAT KEEPS YOU HERE?

### Arts/Culture

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- In addition to all of the above, the delicious restaurants.
- Ridgway is growing culturally due to the hard work and imagination of many people so it is more interesting to go out at night here or take workshops

#### NON-RESIDENT

- The art community. It's got serious game.

### Community

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Nice place to live! recreation, friends, good part-time jobs, cultural activities
- Beautiful community, living with wildlife and the sanctuary wildlife is "supposed" to have here. Amazing people
- "The everyday and eccentric people. The super small town where we can walk everywhere. The open spaces.
- We love people across the spectrum of lifestyles, political beliefs, and financial status. Because it is not over built, although it is threatening to do that at the current pace of development. If it becomes a place that young families cannot afford to live, that would be a terrible shame."
- Ridgway has a wonderful community.
- I love this community...best ever!
- Ridgway is the perfect community of friendly people, a clean environment, a laid back atmosphere (compared to energetic Telluride) and a REAL mountain community, without the growth mindset of ski resort dominated towns.

- We love how our town comes together when a community member(s) is (are) in need. When Axel Charrette passed away, Ridgway proved to be a positive light for his family and loved ones. We will always celebrate Axel Charrette day (2/15).
- Great people!
- There is always an opportunity to meet interesting, like-minded people. It is quiet and intimate. The summer concert series has been wonderful to experience and appreciate.
- Community, friends, progressive thinking, people who care about the community and keeping growth in check. Sherbino, parks, natural beauty, lifestyle.
- Mainly the community. The residents in Ridgway are amazing and it is such a tight-knit community. I always feel at home.
- It definitely is not the ruling class of the citizens but God's creation
- The strong sense of community, connection to place, volunteerism and general feeling of wellbeing.
- I love the size of the town. The fact that one can know a significant percentage of the people who work and live here, and if you participate in any town activity or service, you will see many of them! I love the variety and amount of social and educational and entertaining activities that are going on. I love the fact that I can walk anywhere and/or bicycle if I want. I love the dirt streets, and how they help keep the traffic more effectively slow than just having speed limits. How the streets are so friendly to walk for kids and dogs as well as adults. I like the town neighborhoods where people actually know and spend time with their neighbors. I like sharing the town with all manner of working people, who are

engaged in all kinds of creative productive livelihoods, from traditional to artistic to grass roots services and industries, appreciating the town for what it is right now, not here because they want it to change, and want to get rich helping it change, but because they like it now! I find the town to be unusually inhabited by happy people! This is the most important thing! People who are happy to be here! This is the greatest asset the town has; not extraordinary economic opportunity. And then of course, it is wonderful to be in such a beautiful place rich with so many recreational opportunities. I like recreating, but perhaps even more importantly I like spending time with people that are getting out and recreating! This is an important part of the vibrant energy that we all get to enjoy in this town whether we get to get out ourselves or not! Another aspect of the vibrancy is the amount of live music we get to enjoy here! And the amount of dancing that happens! Bands love to play here because of the energy.

- Keeping the heritage alive The people who are here

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Friends, Creative Nexus, Beauty of San Juans
- Beautiful place to live with a very friendly community.
- The amazing community of people!!!!
- This is the first place I've really felt is home, which is mostly due to geography, but the people are really what make it. I love our community and the depth of character of its people. It's like having a giant family.
- We came here for the beauty but have been so amazed at the wonderful people we have made as friends here!
- Good people and a great job
- A very welcoming community. But that seems to be changing quickly.
- What keeps me here? ...the sense of community, the belief that the majority here feel a true responsibility to protect and preserve this very special place. I like seeing children playing in the park, at the library, at the concerts in the park. Sadly, last week's concert was so big (too big I think) that the children's parade couldn't happen. That is just one example of the special qualities that Ridgway has and is most likely going to lose if planning doesn't put on some brakes. Change is part of life and I embrace it. But experience tells me that those in charge will most likely be looking at their personal bottom line and not the best interests of the community. We don't have to be like Telluride or have all the conveniences of Montrose. As far as I can see, nobody moved to Ridgway for those reasons. They didn't exist!
- I have become highly involved with the local non-profit groups in Ridgway and Ouray and now have many friends here.
- Every time we meet someone new we find many things in common. We feel more at home here and have made more friends than we had in the many years living on the Front Range. The recreational opportunities are unparalleled. The library and cultural events are excellent. We have not found a more beautiful place to live!

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Amazing place to raise kids - but also find the schools, community and local leadership to be strong, forward thinking, inclusive, responsive and responsible.
- I find it fascinating that the school isn't one of your main selections. I appreciate the school system for my kids, I have a good job, and I enjoy the beauty of Ridgway.
- Mostly my work at the school. I love the students and I love the recreation.
- Among other things, the commitment on part of school staff to ensuring a respectful environment for all kids, regardless of gender identity or expression.

### NON-RESIDENT

- The excellent public education with Ridgway Schools nestled in the most beautiful mountain environment. The people in this community are incredibly helpful and kind as well.
- All the reasons ticked off above + the new Waldorf school (Pinyon Song)

## Family

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- FAMILY JOB
- My family.
- Husband, home, friends, small town, career
- Family friendly.
- This is my hometown, I love living here.

### NON-RESIDENT

- I grew up south of Montrose and I work in and around Ridgway in the summers. I have always considered this home.

- My husband.

## Job

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Job n wife

### NON-RESIDENT

- My husband and I are fortunate to have good jobs in Ouray and Telluride.
- Work opportunities and just the overall coolness of the place
- Work
- A job and living away from Ridgway. Downtown.
- Work, own our home.

## Location

### NON-RESIDENT

- The location.
- The Central location
- I very much like the area, the town, and the beautiful scenery.

## Miscellaneous

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- All of the above
- I can't imagine living anywhere else on earth.
- I would just say all of the above
- All of the above is being well maintained even as some growth occurs.
- I look forward to change in Ridgway. I am hoping it soaks up more of the good people and culture that is being strangled out of Telluride by the greedy real estate culture.
- I haven't found another place yet.
- The same things that brought me here

- The San Juan Mountains, the clean air, the people, the library, Clinton St. restaurants, etc.
- And the convenient airport as I travel a lot. Rare to find a place so fabulous that also has the convenience.
- We had nothing left except a small retirement account, so we cashed it out, took the tax hit (we were used to the hits by that point) and took what was left to start our own business to try to re-build our life.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Same as what brought me here
- All of the above
- All the above. Even better that I had anticipated before moving here.
- The checklist covered it pretty well
- Everything. It's an amazing place to live.
- It is home to me.
- Best place we ever lived in.
- I just moved here 6 months ago. It's better every day
- It feels like HOME!!!
- I can't imagine a better life anywhere else. This feels like paradise to me every day.
- Where we have chosen to spend our retirement.
- Best place to live for me
- Other

#### **Moved Away/ Considering Moving**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- We actually recently had to move as the schools were not sufficient for our kids.
- It's my home but it is going to the dogs

- The prospect of selling out soon and getting the most out of the stinking property - too bad, always thought we would live here the rest of our lives.
- cannot afford to stay here OR escape

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- I moved to Ouray from Ridgway because I no longer feel safe in this community. I would like to remain a part of the Ridgway community though and hope to purchase property and build a home here.

#### **Natural Environment**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- The proximity to amazing mountains and the recreation that they provide.
- The San Juans! Beautiful mountains and a relaxed, mellow town. ;)
- The beauty of the mountains, small town mountain lifestyle, and the caring people.
- I'm in love with these mountains
- Ridgway is the whole package for how we want to live our lives, and how we want to interact with nature.
- the natural beauty kept me in Ridgway and the lake
- The climate, my friends, the community, sunshine, long warm autumns, big snow dumps, beautiful summer rains.
- The progressive nature of the local government and the natural beauty of the San Juan Mountains.
- The ability to live in a small town that is progressive, surrounded by natural beauty, and that has easy access to recreational opportunities without being a traditional "ski town."
- I need to live in a place that has pastures; the presence of horses and livestock feeds my soul. I'm not into

skiing or any mountain sports, but the backdrop of the mountains makes this the most majestic place to be.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The scenery, the activities, the peace and quiet.
- Ouray County is the most beautiful place on earth.
- Nature
- Nature

### **Parks, Trails, & Open Space**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- The bike trails!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Recreational opportunities, except one thing: dedicated Pickleball Courts such as other communities have...

### **Small Town Character**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- What keeps me here is the quiet small, humble community. I love the history, the old timers, the ranchers, the outdoor people and the fact that when I drive into town on a Saturday night most everything is shut down except Steps and the Grit. What keeps me here is the small population, lack of tourism, rural values, and down to earth people.
- Great lifestyle in a small town near amazing sights and recreation. Good friends too.
- Small town. Very pleasant area and town. Would rather not have a liquor bar next to my apartment.
- It is a small town with enough elbow room to have space and privacy when you want it, and neighbors and friends to share your time with when you want that.

Best place to raise kids! Love to walk to restaurants and other necessities, love to ski and bike and hike and swim and paddle!!!

- Ridgway is the coolest, hippest town in the US! I just love it because of the people, the proximity to the best mountains in the US, RAT, pickleball and how easy it is to get away to a warmer climate in the winter.
- Small town atmosphere
- Open spaces in town. Being able to walk down the center of most streets. Being able to run my dog off leash.
- I've always liked the laid back, friendly, blue-collar workers, feel of Ridgway.
- The low key feel, not glitzy, dark nights, dirt streets, few apartment complexes, back yards, trails, walk to everything, view corridors, off leash dog and kid friendly.
- The small town community feels, the school district for our children, and the safety we feel living here in comparison to Montrose and beyond. We've been here for 10 years, and we've built lifelong relationships and friendships, and we hope to continue to live here and contribute to this community.
- Small!
- I have never loved a town or the people in it like I do Ridgway, and I've lived many places. This is a unique town that seems true to its character. I worry that many will move here wanting to change it to the thing they're moving away from.
- Everything just mentioned! Ridgway is a special place for many reasons. My boyfriend has also lived in Telluride for over 20 years. Though Telluride is lovely, it's no longer the quiet community that it

was. Ridgway is now a much better fit for us.

- Very unique small town
- I like walking to the post office, market, coffee shop, etc... I hate automobiles and Ridgway is small enough to stay out of my car and still do what I need and want to do
- The walkable community.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The environment, the small town feel, but great people who love the arts and music. The restaurants in Ridgway and Ouray are great. It is fun, peaceful, and a slice of heaven. Please keep it that way.
- We downsized in order to move here. We found a cabin that is on the escarpment in Elk Meadows and the view is beautiful. We have made many friends who love music and the arts which we also love. The size of Ridgway keeps us here. We realize this is a tourist area and growth and development will come, but we hope that it is controlled in a way to keep the integrity of a small mountain town like Ridgway.
- Employment, small town, safe, and access to mountains.
- The beauty, small town, and location
- Too busy these days
- The opportunity to raise my kids in the same small town I was raised in, and the ranching/mining history and that has raised a future generation that is being threatened in our community.
- The small town atmosphere, family, and nature
- I have grown to enjoy the feeling of a small community surrounded by ranches. The mix of people in Ridgway is great. I love the park. I enjoy the Sherbino

Theatre and what it offers. I enjoy meeting friends at the theatre, in stores, in the post office, or in the local bar. Probably, most of all, I am living in what I would hope is my final home. It is located conveniently near most necessary services. The Riverwalk is also near, if I want to stroll or bike along the river.

- Ridgway now has what Ouray and Telluride have lost. Control commercialization, i.e. t-shirt, gift shops, etc. Stick to the direction you are now, local shops, restaurants and retail.
- Small number of residents, quiet streets, wild life watching, star gazing

## **Q7 & Q8: WHAT MIGHT MAKE YOU LEAVE RIDGWAY?**

### **Community**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- People are what make Ridgway unique. If growth happens too fast and uncontrolled, town will be filled with people who "just don't get it". An example is all of the people who speed or don't stop at stop signs. Really? You are in a wonderful community, slow down and appreciate it!
- The lack of political diversity. The political climate of Ridgway is primarily Democratic and it should be focused on by-partisan thinking.
- Lack of a community feeling, Not enough economic growth, Unfriendly people, Too many dogs not on leashes, Rudeness
- VERY BIG REASON FOR ME -If fabric of community changes too much because lack of affordable housing. That could make our town an elite community not as much of a diverse community. Diverse in

age, income, education and goals. We have been very strong in diversity tho lacking some cultural diversity

- Small town people meddling in other people's business and spreading untruths about others.
- Not enough change. I would consider selling my house or running it as a rental in a few years if the demographics don't change more. There are a lot of retired folks and new families, and I would like to see more of a young adult component.
- The change in our local population is probably what would make me think about leaving. Not the change in numbers.... because everywhere is getting crowded, and the increased numbers have given us new restaurants and services.... but I can't help but notice that many of our new residents are retirees and second home owners, and sometimes that can make town feel a little "generic". The last "market correction" or "transfer of wealth" swept through Ridgway like a hurricane. And five years later this is an incredibly different town.
- Community too resistant to progress
- too much gentrification
- The consistent violation of driver's breaking the speed limit. We live near the elementary school and people continuously drive 30-50 miles per hour in a 15 mph zone. It is ridiculous. We have had numerous conversations about this issue with the town and will continue to until this road is monitored more.
- If Ridgway would become too "elite", only affordable to the well off. If we can't provide affordable housing for the teachers, police, government workers, hospitality service employees. That's the

case now, and this needs to be addressed ASAP!

- It's wonderful to get affordable housing for artists, but we must think of the folks mentioned above."
- If the town just gets mostly bought up by second home owners or VRBO/AirBnB people, it will kill the local community vibe.
- The ridiculous priorities. Money wasted on crappy "art", clutter on the sidewalks, bridge, parks, unreadable street signs, but not on necessities, like a laundromat, health care facilities. Drugs everywhere.
- It is changing and had dramatically changed. A little change was fine, but there is nothing left of the small, quiet town I moved too. There are too many "programmed events" presented every night of the week, sometimes two or three events overlapping and there isn't the population to support them....so too many people from outside are attending.
- If some overall agreement to remove or screen excessive equipment storage is not enacted
- Growth needs to occur in our small beautiful town, for a sustainable economy. We need housing that meets the needs of our locals (\$150 or less), not just the folks who have a lot of money. With this being said, I'd leave if the "friendliness" factor disappears and a Telluride attitude emerges and takes over due to the housing only being affordable to those with high incomes.
- If it keeps turning into a mini-Telluride/mini-Boulder... where are all these people coming from?!?
- If the whole character of the place changed including lack of pride in the community, disregard of our beautiful

environment, much less friendly people, poor maintenance of all our parks and individual homes and lack of planning resulting in crowded communities.

- The trashy people coming in to get the pot and freebies
- I would not be pleased to see Ridgway become a junior Telluride (ostentatious and artificial)
- I have long term concerns about the ability of people with passion but relatively low paying jobs (artists, mountain guides, seasonal recreationists, hippies, and funky people) to stay in Ridgway, both because of increased cost of living, rent, land prices, etc, and because of a changing demographic that would make non-traditional, non-capitalistic people feel less welcome. The “mainstream-ization” of Ridgway. I am scared of this, but it is mostly unfounded fear, as of yet.
- Loss of small town character if Ridgway becomes a tourist destination and feels congested. Growth is bound to occur however, it can happen wisely if priority is placed on serving the needs of those that live here full time (affordable housing, childcare especially pre-kindergarten, social/mental services, readily accessible open space & recreation, arts) versus those that come to visit or live here part time. I would also consider leaving if Ridgway becomes a destination for festivals or large special events.
- After our experience in how big money ruined Telluride, we feel that it is important that Ridgway manage the growth of the town. Too many second home owners or too much gentrification of Ridgway into “suburbs in the mountains “will turn it into a feeder town

of Telluride. Not unlike Basalt is to Aspen. We believe efforts should be made to maintain the ranching history of the area and small town character of Ridgway.

- I would like Ridgway to be our forever home. I am concerned about how the town can change with people who may not appreciate small town living and want to conform our sweet home into a mini Boulder. It is RIDGWAY... and no other town. I understand that change is coming and appreciate the growth. At this point I think the growth has been respectful to citizens and conscious.
- I didn't want to live in Mini Telluride
- I have lived in many different places and always passed through Ridgway to see family in Norwood or to work in Telluride. After finally settling here in Ridgway, I have come to find what it was I was looking for and it was Ridgway. I do not ever plan on leaving or moving anywhere else. Although I have marked what might make me leave, it is more of a reflection of the things that I feel are important for Ridgway to be mindful of in their Master Plan.
- continuation of the ridiculous patrolling in our neighborhoods for speed and stop sign traps
- Changing from ranching to artsy community. We don't need to be another Telluride.
- I'm sad that Ridgway is no longer a ranching town. The population is changing and there is less and less of the small western town feel to town. More and more I feel like we are becoming mini Boulder or Telluride 2.0 and I really don't care for it. The excessive focus on ART EVERYWHERE is really annoying and I feel contributes to the yuppie-



ification that I see happening. I'd like to see more work done to preserve the ability for regular people to ranch and farm in this county and not be squeezed out.

- It turns into every other resort town with too many concerts and down town becomes too yupified.
- Loss of community, too many Air bnbs, focus on bringing in \$\$\$
- Gentrification.
- Being surrounded by rich people that are just out of touch with how real people live and WORK, maybe that's what you want? So the politicals can brag about turning this lovely community into a sunset magazine destination instead of a place where people are proud to raise their families?
- I'm concerned that the local economy and culture has in recent years become focused excessively, I think, on attracting transient, pass-through, tourist activity. We have too many liquor stores, too many dope shops, too many dope grow operations, too many bars, too many parties, some sponsored by and run by the town. Some of this results from the recreational opportunities and the scenery, but I think we need to be more aware of the downsides of becoming a "tourist town," and therefore develop a more diverse approach to fostering our local economy.
- We're blessed to be able to own our house, but if Ridgway becomes another Telluride in the sense that it's "overrun" by second (or third or fourth) homeowners, we would be inclined to find another small, rural mountain town that is a true community with long-term residents year-round, not one that fills up only for the holidays or is dominated by

tourists staying in short-term rentals.

Significant increases in population, especially through multi-unit housing, would also motivate us to look elsewhere.

- The lack of political diversity. The political climate of Ridgway is primarily Democratic and it should be focused on by-partisan thinking.
- Lack of safety and belonging for my transgender child.
- Changing of the type of people and a move away from an agriculture lifestyle.
- See above. I would like to see a more diverse population.
- If there was a loss of the strong community or if people changed towards not wanting a strong community such as second home owners whose primary residence is not Ridgway.
- Too much tourist craziness so locals can't utilize the outdoor areas due to overcrowding in parking lots or local restaurants
- An influx of people that create an "exclusive" community. We seem to be becoming a "Colorado chic" community and this everything I am NOT interested in. My wife and I talk about leaving as real estate and development continue in a way that promotes exclusivity
- the need for greater sanity behind community

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Too much influx of the wrong group
- If it becomes like Breckenridge or Boulder.
- If the town changes too much and brings in chain stores, restaurants or paves more streets and Ridgway becomes more like Breckenridge.

- If (when) the greed for growth exceeds the community's willingness to take care its own people and lifestyle
- If it becomes like Telluride
- If it changes too much, gets too big, or too many Texans or Republicans move in.
- Too much drug influence. There's already so many cannabis dispensaries.
- Fancy buildings, people from big cities trying to change the way it has always been, people without respect for historical buildings, people with different values who value money and "progress" over beauty, landscape and the way it was.
- If the Christian presence grows anymore in Ridgway we'll sell our house. It's too small of a town to be inundated by a conservative leaning demographic.
- I would leave Ridgway because of all the other transports that left their homes to move here to change our small town, that's already happening....
- The last 25 years I have watched this area lose focus on its roots. Ouray County is a ranching/mining mecca and with all the changes being brought into the area from big city ideals our towns are losing a battle to the same idealism that brings in more crime, higher cost of living, political nightmares, and erasing a history that upheld some of the greatest community supporters. Our children are being thrown into ideals in public schools and taught lessons that should only be discussed in the home setting. They are being conditioned to desensitize the value of work ethic, responsibility and an honest living. My family moved here to escape the big city hustle and bustle, and now raising my own children here I can't even allow them the freedom of experiencing the area on their own for fear of all the strangers and lifestyles that follow them in.
- If it gets too far away from its agricultural roots.
- The changes we are seeing to be more like other towns. Liberal ideas taking over.
- Too many closed minded liberals
- When it turns into Telluride.
- Death or maybe anything like Starbucks or Wal-Mart!
- Too many trophy homes (the Telluride/Aspen effect). Too many Real Estate agents trying to make too much money by pushing housing costs to the extremes. A military or Oil/Gas Industry presence would also make us leave.
- I would like to stay here for the rest of my life, but if it gets too busy, expensive, the community as a whole feels less caring and supportive and cohesive, I would consider leaving. I also worry about how climate change will continue to alter our environment and development with more people coming harming our ecosystems and my ability to get out and enjoy these mountains I so love.
- government
- A classic example were the proposed draconian visual impact rule changes of a couple years ago.
- Town Council's decisions
- Politics
- The new town council. You all seem very interested in putting Ridgway on the map for 'artist and creative people" but they are NOT your constituents. Building cheap housing and pimping it out to artist who don't live here again DISGUSTING! We don't want

MCCONDOS. THAT ARE \$900 that's not affordable AT ALL!

- I've already left. And I don't see myself ever coming back to live in Ridgway so long as the man who assaulted me continues to reside here and remain a part of the community.
- Rental costs are exorbitant in Ridgway, and that is definitely a factor in my move.
- If we become another Telluride or Boulder or Aspen, etc. Let folks who want those types of environments move back there!
- If it no longer felt like home for a combination of reasons - our friends leave and it is hard to find common ground with those that take their place, if it becomes difficult to walk everywhere or unsafe to let our kids play/go to the park, etc on their own, if the intellectual and cultural opportunities decline radically, if the environment and natural beauty of the area is no longer valued, if the town becomes more about tourism and less about making life good for its residents.
- All reasons ticked off above + if regular small town people are pushed out in favor of rich trust fund types or second home owners. + If cost of living becomes so high that people's main focus in life becomes to make money (rat race..).
- If Ridgway becomes too expensive like other towns, I would hate to see only the rich be able to live here. If corporations and chains move in, I move out. The drought and wildfires are the worst this year. Water is important. We can't change the weather, or have we already, but we can elect people who believe in climate change and want to protect the environment. If Ridgway becomes a desert I would want to move, but where? And who would buy property here if there

is no water and it is too much of a fire risk to live here.

- "If close friends move on.
- If Ridgway becomes Telluride or Crested Butte."
- Moved here many years ago-was totally content the way it was. A little nervous with attention presently.
- If it becomes too commercial or heavily counter culture.
- If the town gets swallowed up by Christians we will sell our house and leave. I'm already concerned with the presence the church currently has here. If this presence grows we'll relocate. Ridgway is just too small of a town to be inundated by a right leaning demographic.
- I have left Ridgway for Ouray, for now.
- Growing drug culture
- I prefer Durango but my husband prefers Ridgway. For me, Ridgway is too small and stagnant and with enough closed minded people to keep the town from growing. It also suffers from a lack of diversity, a lack of jobs, and a lack of businesses/economy. Ridgway often feels like a retirement community for upper middle class, liberal white people who like bluegrass/rock music. I prefer Durango because it has a little more ethnic diversity (at least for CO), a greater range of income, a young population that gives the town energy and ideas, a supermarket in town and other conveniences that makes life easier for young families, and a community that's open to growth and change.
- If the area goes more socialist.
- If low income housing brings in more people. Understand for the existing people, but not more

## Economic Development

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- lack of employment opportunities and affordable living
- Too expensive to survive.
- High cost of living
- If the cost of living increases
- It is already getting too expensive here, most of my friends can't find a place to live here, but they can find work. Does not make sense
- Cost of living
- If Ridgway becomes a town that only the wealthy or financially well off retired people can afford to live, we may leave. A big part of what we love about it is the people, the everyday people, the cogs in the wheel that live here. We don't care if you are a hair dresser, carpenter, bartender, waitress, business owner, someone who lives day to day financially or retired from some well-paying corporate job. You are a big part of the Ridgway we love. If growth and cost of living increases such that the majority of the people who work here can no longer afford to live here, it will no longer be a town that is attractive to us. The growth of the town's population and the cost of living increases (real estate primarily) that we have seen since 2012 is very concerning. If it becomes nothing but concrete streets and buildings on every lot, that might make us leave for an even smaller town.
- If I change jobs in the future, there isn't much opportunity here.
- If I ever lose my job that is irreplaceable, or move do to altitude and health.
- lack of employment opportunities and affordable living

- New opportunities
- Local wage scale and job opportunities are both low.
- Lack of business available in the area and shopping

### NON-RESIDENT

- It's getting expensive. No/little employment opportunities
- Job opportunity, lack of a grocery store with competitive prices, lack of pharmacy, lack of a good medical facility, continuation of the idea that the town need only to cater to second home owners, retirees, tourists, and locals who have lived here for 30+ years (those who don't want change).
- If business environment necessitates
- Not enough affordable eating options. Not any/enough fast food options. High prices of grocery store. Too much "pot" culture.
- Death or maybe anything like Starbucks or Wal-Mart!
- High cost of living

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- The schools!!! Plain and simple - would have loved to stay, but the elementary school has no ability nor desire to deal with kids outside the 'normal' bell curve. We have heard that several other families are making similar moves because of the elementary school. Without a creative educational culture, families will continue to depart!!!
- If the schools don't feel strong and supported
- For college

- The elementary school, and mostly the principal. Total bureaucrat and not an educator!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Education.
- Poor school quality
- Education, if the quality of education declines.
- We love the Ridgway Schools - if the schools are ever not properly funded, we would need to leave to seek better educational opportunities for our children.
- The main thing would be if I feel that the school is no longer providing a good and challenging education for my kids.

### **Family**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- To live closer to children and grandchildren.
- Unable to find opportunities for child care or programs that are effective and affordable. Currently there is only one child care option and it isn't a great option. Other communities have multiple child care options.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- move closer to grandkids
- Family elsewhere....
- We are hoping our children/grandchildren move here in the future. Affordable housing is certainly a major factor.

### **Health & Well Being**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Old age -- there's no care home in the county.

- In another 10-15 years, I may start to have difficulty getting out to socialize and access services. There's not much available to seniors in this community and yet it's where my friends are (mostly of the same age!) so I would be sad to have to leave. Not so much due to medical but due to isolation and lack of support/activities. Also, we can hope our beautiful forests don't all burn down and turn into high deserts! What can we do about global warming?
- Limited access to good medical care
- I cannot know the future but if I had something happen where I could not live here- go blind, someone wanting to kill me, can't think of anything else. Likely the loss of driving ability is a realistic concern.
- Being unable to live at 7000 feet
- Most likely we'd only leave if we needed to be closer to specialty medical services, or to move closer to our kids for various reasons.
- In the event that my husband or I fall incredibly ill I could imagine that we may move somewhere with better health care than this area provides.
- we need better medical facilities for our aging population

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Need for care and assistance when older.
- May not be able to sustain this lifestyle due to old age.
- Get too old or unhealthy to enjoy mountain life style.
- Lack of child care, especially for babies and toddlers.
- There is a real need for a 24 hour medical clinic to service the county, a more affordable grocery option.

- Altitude may become an issue
- I will likely leave because medical care is not good in this area.
- money or illness

## Housing

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Lack of space home builds.
- Rent is getting very scarce. Everyone is vrbo their rentals. Or to rent is over 2,000 dollars when you need two bedrooms and have pets.
- The only thing that would drive us out of this town is the gentrification that is happening right now. We would be heartbroken to leave, after living and contributing to, and loving this community. But we are a middle class, hardworking family for 4, and the possibility of buying a home now under \$350,000 is increasingly dismal.
- Over regulation, high taxes or fees drive up mortgage too high
- The cost of living is really high here, especially for folks our age (late 20s to early 30s) trying to buy their first home, have kids, make a life. Since moving here we've had half a dozen dear friends our age move to Montrose because they couldn't afford to buy/rent here, or even find an apartment after a lease was up. We need more rental housing and more affordable options for first-time homebuyers or this town will lose the young people that help make it the raddest spot around!
- Mostly not being able to afford a home as a first time home buyer.
- While I own a place in Ridgway that is affordable, I'm afraid that other people like me (that could be friends and

neighbors) will not be able to move here in the future.

- There is no housing available. Rent is too high for a single mom. Need a place that can allow pets.
- We're trying really, really hard to buy a house right now. But even with two relatively high incomes for the area and no dependents, it's a stretch and might not work. In that case, we'd follow our friends to Montrose.
- If housing becomes Cost of Living in addition to development not being planned properly - some of the larger housing development projects appear to be outgrowing proper infrastructure such as parking, etc.
- Affordability. Rising living expenses/housing costs. This was once one of the few affordable mountain towns left in CO with an active community (although still relatively expensive compared to our northern city neighbors). Unfortunately, I feel that cost is forcing many out esp. the younger generation.
- The dream of owning my home seems to be getting further and further out of reach, THERE IS NO AFFORDABLE HOUSING! There are also no job opportunities here, working three service jobs with highly fluctuating income with no benefits is not ideal for raising a family on. I feel Ridgway is becoming another Colorado mountain town where only rich retirees, trust-funders, and single rockclimbers/mountain bikers who live in tents will be able to reside here.
- It is not easy to survive here. A small population year-round, barely holds our heads above water 70% of the time. To keep going all depends on summer tourism. I look at this summer, the drought, the water pouring out of the

reservoir in Ridgway State Park, which I think is Ridgway's most vital tourism draw. It is the 'everyman' draw, appealing and attainable to many. Otherwise, Ridgway has one motor lodge, a small-scale high-end spa, and somewhat of a handful of vacation rentals. I don't think becoming an overly exclusive community, of upscale appeal only, is sustainable. We survive on the everyman draw and the everyman people it takes to provide the services. Therefore, Ridgway MUST provide abundant affordable housing.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Cost of living is getting too expensive and I can't afford to be a homeowner.
- Affordable housing.
- for me not leaving but for the folks that desire to move to Ridgway or stay - Housing
- Lack of affordable housing. I live in an apartment and have been waiting for a 500 to 900 square foot single family home to be listed for under \$200,000 and there are none.
- Can't afford housing.
- I have stated after my husband & I finished building our hopefully, final home that people would have to take me out of the house feet first. I don't intend to move. However, if prices go up substantially on housing along with assessments, there is always the possibility that we could be priced out of the area. I sincerely hope not.
- The rising cost of housing m, the rising cost of living, lack of job opportunities
- If more housing options are not created i.e. rental, tiny homes a mix of housing opportunities one may have to leave Ridgway. Right now you have the original platted Town, River Park & Solar Ranches

none of which has multi-family or tiny-home components etc. The Town needs to focus on development that is on the west side of US 550 and allow density increases and zoning changes to provide a better housing/living (apartments) mix. If the Town is NOT going to work with developers and allow density increases one can take a look at Carbondale to see where real estate prices are heading when the only option for living in Ridgway is SF homes with some scattered duplex and triplexes. As far as renting without an apartment component to the Ridgway's density most folks will not be able to afford to rent a home.

#### **Infrastructure and Public Services**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My wife who wants to move closer to Montrose because of the rec center there. It's a battle but fortunately, she has agreed to stay for now.
- The administrative situation really sucks. Not only do we have expanded the town staff exponentially for a town our size, the police, the town crew, administrator, secretaries, building inspector, just goes on and on and on...the town council just loves to "beautify" what was already a great place, but no, they want to make "great again".

#### **Land Use & Built Environment**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- When I first moved here at the age of 37 with my wife and two young children, I felt as if I were HOME for the first time in my life. I was in heaven, and still am..... but cautiously now. I am on guard as I see bigger changes happen that I have

seen before in our state. I am worried and saddened at the loss of what I love about Ridgway. We have all seen it so often in the west and in Colorado; beautiful towns changed and often corrupted by developers and people seeing dollar signs as the ultimate goal. This results in pushing out the common person and creating a different value structure and demographic. I admit I roll my eyes when I pass the benches and the "art" that sits around town posed as "an upgrade". Does this really serve the people of town? The "chic and shi-shi" vibe lends itself to exclusivity, higher real estate prices and attracting growth and development. In the last year, as my wife and I have seen Ridgway take steps that have seriously made us consider moving away when the kids are out of college. This is deeply saddening for us both and our children. Why is growth and development always the pursuit? What about preserving humility, quiet, and wild places?

- Over development. Crowding.
- "This town is getting spoiled by over development. Density.
- Traffic. Forcing commercial parking into residential zones."
- Too many people, cars/traffic, lack of parking, over development, too many cars in residential area.
- I might leave Ridgway due to the influx of people and the changes that are being made to our small ranching, rural town.
- Too much commercialization. Too much growth.
- The day that more people than not want amenities found in larger towns and gentrified places here in Ridgway - as opposed to moving to a place that has them now. (Examples: paved streets sidewalks, street lights, concrete curbs,

concrete gutters, a myriad of stores and shops that can be found in Montrose, gentrification in general, when tourism is the only income, etc.,..... ) Big box stores, shopping centers, too many people, .....

- Too much growth, just because there is space doesn't mean it needs to be filled.
- Cost of living is high-lack of growth as a town, lots of opportunity for retirees, but not for others
- if it grows unsustainably, or gets too many people or gets too expensive or gets too busy and noisy . . .
- "Traffic, resident's attitude to change what we have.
- Look what happened to Telluride."
- Too many people.
- TOO MUCH GROWTH! I spent decades living in South Florida and watching the growth explosion. More and more housing construction without adding the roads to deal with it. You cannot have much of an increase in housing without adding the increase in vehicles by adding lanes and more roads or you will create so much traffic it ruins the quality of life that most truly value living in a small town.
- Urban Sprawl. Poor Planning
- Over development, over crowding
- Too much growth.
- I am terrified of ugly housing developments that replace nature and pasture land. I know that has happened to a lot of Colorado towns, please don't let it happen to Ridgway!!!
- If the development of the town goes the way development generally does - the Landlords safe bet for commercial tenants is retail chains and franchises with proven track records -



understandable as it minimizes risk to building owners and developers. However, it is what has led to the homogenization of America. Every town looks the same from CVS to Starbucks. Similarly, tract home development with builders dropping the same house design on every lot. When / if all that comes to town I will go elsewhere. I don't like every house in Solar Ranch but I like that they are all different - so I like the development way more than any typical suburban development. Ridgway needs to keep its unique character and strive to avoid looking like every other part of the country - it will pay off in tourism dollars, real estate values and quality of life.

- This town is getting spoiled by over development.
- I think the proliferation cars, campers, trailers and misc. "stuff" covered with blue tarps is a huge distraction to an otherwise charming community.
- Too much change/growth is at the top of the list why I might leave.
- That town is not crowded with traffic and parking issues. If this town continues on its path of becoming less dog friendly.
- We do not need to become another Ouray or Telluride.
- I feel like the administration of Ridgway wants to make it like telluride, it's a great community but I see no need for the continued forced change.
- I would say not enough growth, closing off all the ranch land to development is forcing a housing shortage, which drives up prices, which means only wealthy people, trust funders, or retired folks with big bank accounts can afford to live here, all fine if it is a normal percentage of the population, but it's not, at all, and every year it increases. And then if someone try

to make a little extra with air b&b or something you harass the crap out of them

- I lived a majority of my life in Jackson Hole Wyoming. I left there partly out of a general desire to make changes in my life, to stir it up, but more so because the valley changed so much from 1972 when I moved there out of college, to 2010 when I moved to Ridgway. Of the above reasons why I might leave Ridgway in the future, that apply to why I left Jackson Hole, the most significant would be the first "Too much change or growth.....followed by "If the people change too much". The cost of living and housing were also issues, but less so than the overall feel and experience of living there. However, I can foresee having to leave Ridgway simply because I can't find an affordable place to rent.
- If the pastures are taken over by neighborhoods, I would want to find someplace more rural
- Willingness of Ridgway to "develop" in ways that have made other places unlivable as though the same consequences won't happen here.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Congestion, high density of people, loss of natural and open space
- Fill the valley with golf courses and houses.
- Growth
- If the town does not follow a mindful and slow-growth model and instead opts for a reckless form of development or tourism like Telluride, my husband and I would seek a smaller, lesser developed community.
- I do worry sometimes about growth and how that may impact the things I love

about Ridgway. I was so disappointed that the visual impact regulations were not expanded when the economy was slow so that the quality of growth, as it impacts the beauty, could be more carefully controlled.

- A city council blindly bent on growth as the principle mandate, the overriding good and a necessary endeavor. We could concentrate on quality. Growth will happen anyway. Why tax vacant property higher than property with a home???? Isn't that a growth mandate???
- I know the town will grow. If that is managed well, that growth should not be too big a problem.
- development
- Ridgway-like all Colorado Mountain and more "scenic" places-is feeling the stress of increased tourism, housing pressures, environmental stressors and Public works pressures-roads, schools, Emergency medical, all within a rather compressed geological valley. The switch from agriculturally based economies to tourism will always bring these issues. If you want some really good ideas-Read "The Natural Step for Communities"
- As long as any community focuses on the shifting economic base of tourism/second home residents-which is supported mostly by people with money, the ambiance and culture will always shift into towards that strata... stressing minimum wage earners, agriculture and environment. That is your choice-and it has been proven thousands of times.
- Ridgway does not have the space, road system or geology to contend with what is stressing it now-trying to accommodate it-will tip it over the edge."
- Important to keep low density ranching and not replace with crowded golf course-

type communities or other suburban developments. That's what we moved here to get away from.

- If it becomes big city in thinking, rules and changes.
- Too many people. too much emphasis on growth, need to make a place for residents who cannot afford to live here and generally the common, all pervasive, unquestioned need to grow, grow, grow
- If Ridgway loses too much of its character & charm through the rush to grow and expand

## Miscellaneous

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- 4 pot shops. Illegal aliens and the fact that nothing is being done to deport them even though they are taking jobs from Americans. Ridiculous priorities on the part of the city, eg} replacing perfectly good street signs with ugly, unreadable ones; cluttering the sidewalks, bridges, parks, etc. with crappy "art". Businesses who give priority in hiring to non-residents, eg) the public library. Political and religious power-tripping, eg) the Israeli involvement in the community, euphemistically known as the Christian Center, with the prime minister of Israel dropping in and out.
- Desire to travel, live closer to grown children/grandchildren, Trump gets reelected, quality of life in U.S. degrades due to GOP policies, too hot/dry, increase in traffic, too many people, too much smoke from wild fires, etc.
- If I can retire and travel full-time, but we'll probably always keep our home here.
- If school quality declines. If number of families decline. If progressive, liberal

nature of Town changes. If Town votes overwhelmingly "red". If too many Republicans from Texas move in. If traffic through town gets overwhelming. If there is too much development. If it loses its rural nature and feel. If recreational opportunities decline. If there is insufficient access to water. If our kids move away and we choose to live closer to them.

- Forgetting what is important: Honoring the past, remembering to treat others like you would like to be treated, be trusting, not take the communities' input lightly.
- Too far from theatre and reasonable air service
- Family might want to live closer to my grand kids
- Too many rules

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The changes in Ouray County break my heart. The majority of decisions made by government are for the sole purpose of benefiting government itself and those working within the system, rather than for the purpose of improving quality of life for citizens or for the preservation of our environment. Unwelcome changes have been made in our county and towns which do not benefit residents, businesses or tourist appeal/attraction in the area. Residents do not feel that local government is representing our values or wishes. Many believe that our government has made decisions which have negatively impacted the environment for all future generations and which in effect contribute to the destruction of our planet. Citizens know that money and power are the driving forces of our government. Our government has made many decisions which have had a negative and permanent impact on our

environment and quality of life. Our current government administrators are not preserving Ouray County as the beautiful, peaceful, safe place of refuge that it was in the past. This is a sad and shameful legacy being left behind for all future generations.

- Too many gate closers and/or rule changers. I.e. I've got my slice of heaven, let's close the gates so we don't get too many people and it will stay the way I found it.
- I'm kinda sad that Subway went away. It wouldn't make me leave, but it was nice to have around when driving through to my grandma's, or staying the reservoir.
- Other
- Poor river quality - pollution Poor Speeding Control on Highways - Highways are dangerous & very poorly monitored. Never see a highway patrolman on Hwy 550. Poor winter maintenance on Hwy 550 & Hwy 62 in Ouray County. See more snowplows when roads are dry. Poor maintenance of Dallas Divide. Very Dangerous. Look at Highway statistics from Montrose to Ridgway - Most dangerous Hwy in State & never see a Patrolman. Summertime motorcycles on Hwy 62 & 550 are so dangerous - look a recent deaths and nothing changes to slow down the traffic.
- Law enforcement is becoming a nuisance. Why r officers driving in circles in town. They should be on a bike meeting people and the school kids. The waste of gas is ridiculous. If there is a huge crime there r always the SO who hang out at the office to go get them. The officers are very rigid and unfriendly.

## Natural Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- If winter goes away due to climate change.
- Climate will certainly play a role... if it becomes too dry. Or if our nation's government becomes too oppressive.
- if this bad air/smoky air continues to be the "new norm" As well as decreased snow in this area. Increase in private property where trail easements are not negotiated.
- Only if it gets to be 100 degrees all summer long, I might consider looking elsewhere?!
- The air quality seems very poor here, mostly due, it seems, to the dry and dusty conditions. Combined with the elevation, I feel like it's not a very healthy place to live in terms of respiratory health
- The beach is calling.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Unregulated construction that destroy views and natural beauty
- If the Alpine areas are not protected and development is allowed to disregard the natural beauty that brought us here.
- Natural Disaster
- A significant decline in environmental quality, such as air pollution, a decline in dark skies due to unmanaged growth with minimal lighting regulations
- Above plus environmental deterioration
- Pollution & Fire
- Pollution and Fracking. Elevation in crime. No internet service. Any non-organic farming practices.
- This has been a tough year. No snow or rain. We are in the middle of a terrible drought and surrounded by wildfires so

that in itself is scary. There is nothing we can do about the climate change except vote for people who want to address the problem. I love that Ridgway has a "no idle" law, except I am not sure if it is enforced. So the risk of a water shortage or a fire is rather scary, and I am constantly watching for fires. If water availability or quality became an issue I might have to leave, but if that were the case who would want to buy my property or anyone's for that matter. On March 9, 2017 I saw a Ouray County Sheriff's car, license plate #489 JAN at 550 and 62 with a bumper sticker that said "In God We Trust." First, this is illegal and I sent a picture to the ACLU. If Ouray County goes to the far right and continues to use government vehicles to promote religion I am out of here.

- Prolonged drought (several years of severe drought)
- Preference for a different climate
- If continued severe drought makes the fire hazard ridiculous and water supply issues become unsustainable.
- Becomes polluted and use toxic chemicals in and around town. If fracking ever comes to this area.
- Lack of snow and water. Way too much water is wasted with flood irrigation. That, and golf courses, lawns and other big water wasters will either become illegal, or we will be forced to move. Our generation has been fleeing the forces of greed and stupidity all across the West, and now Ridgway is a final stand.
- Climate change

## None/Unknown

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- never leaving

- I hope not to leave.
- I plan to stay for the rest of my life.
- Death
- At this point, we'd be hard pressed to leave.
- I don't think we'll leave. No reason yet.
- I really can't imagine that Ridgway would change so much that I would want to leave.
- I don't want to leave
- hopefully nothing for a while

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- With any luck, they will have to carry me out.
- Never leaving!
- I really don't want to leave
- Nothing really
- Plan on living here until I die but hard to predict life and circumstances.
- Never Leaving!
- Only if I were forced to leave by unknown circumstances
- I can't imagine ever leaving.
- At this point it would have to be something unforeseen.
- It would take a lot for me to leave, and if I did, I would want to come back.

### **Small Town Character**

#### **RESIDENT**

- The most important thing to me about being in Ridgway is the small town character. I moved to Telluride in 1978 and saw it change to what it is today and it's heartbreaking, really. I know change is inevitable but I so hope that Ridgway can keep its charm!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Loss of dirt side streets & parking; those ridiculous tank benches, artsy structures, unreadable street signs, 15 MPH speed limits. The former small town character of Ridgway is fast disappearing!!!
- Town is LOSING its small town charm with contemporary ugly art and benches. Too much focus on marijuana business which now seem to control our local government
- Liked the quiet cow-town of the past. Becoming too much of a transient arts/crafts colony.
- Death or maybe anything like Starbucks or Wal-Mart!
- wanting a different lifestyle from the western slope
- I only have property there because of estate obligations. I would never EVER live in a Colorado Mountain Tourist town! :) I much prefer a solid agriculturally based sleepy little off the map town.

## Q9: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE RIDGWAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE COMMUNITY?

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Telluride wanna-bes over-charging for everything, especially food.
- Ridgway is a beautiful mountain town with a caring community.
- A quiet, humble small town in the midst of one of the most beautiful stretches of wild and rugged stretches of mountains and desert in the lower forty-eight that is in jeopardy of losing its beauty due to a seeming desire to grow and become more exclusive.
- Ridgway is a small town with a wide variety of people: ranchers, young families, retired people, outdoorsy people of all ages, professional guides, and artists; and the town is thriving and seems to be on the edge of a large growth spurt.
- Natural beauty and the friendliness of the community.
- small, cool, beautiful, extremely difficult to establish yourself (housing and job)
- A beautiful small town at the base of majestic mountains.
- Cool little town at the base of the San Juan Mountains.
- The most beautiful place in America
- A growing and developing small town in an unbelievable location with a lot of potential.
- Ridgway is a small Western Slope town with a strong community identity, and an invigorating mix of active and creative people.
- Yuppie place where everything, especially food, is overpriced. Complete lack of human rights.
- Small town with amazing people nestled in a stunning landscape.
- Ridgway is a beautiful place with a good core community.
- It is a pleasant small town in a beautiful area with friendly people.
- Breathtaking, rural heaven with incredible low-key events!
- A great town in the most beautiful mountain valley imaginable.
- Ridgway is a small town that's close to the mountains, full of recreational activities, and progressive in its vision for the future.
- Beautiful mountain town with delicious food and plenty of parking.
- great community
- Friendly people and a quite setting.
- Small mountain town in a great location with wonderful progressive energy.
- Small locals town in between the desert and mountains
- A town with a vision, progressive, residents involved in its character
- Beautiful mountain town.
- best of the Colorado small towns, great natural setting and outdoor opportunities but hurry because we are losing our character---becoming overly normalized---and soon will become just another pass thru place
- Ridgway is a beautiful small town in southwest Colorado. (I don't like to say too much because I don't want them moving here.)
- Best place on Earth!!!!!!

- Friendly and active, politically and environmentally aware
- Small, funky, unpretentious town filled with wonderful, interesting, creative people.
- Small rural friendly community with a level of creative sophistication.
- A beautiful ,small mountain town with a caring community
- Unfortunately a bedroom community of Telluride that has cheaper housing.
- A beautiful, eclectic, small town with big town fun!
- a mountain town affected by a large, popular, money generating ski industry and trying to find its way
- Small mountain community nestled between a posh ski resort town of Telluride, and the jet service community of Montrose
- Small town America focused on community and family.
- Spectacular small, peaceful mountain town, mostly progressive and athletic but mixed with some conservative mindsets.
- Ridgway is a true community - built in the essence of what community truly means.
- Beautiful, very small and yet dynamic mountain town
- Ridgway is a small, rural gateway town in the San Juans that offers all kinds of opportunities in outdoor recreation and arts.
- Great sense of community.
- Low key, quiet, tight knit community, unlike anywhere else.
- Beautiful small town in the San Juans. Bring your job and your partner.
- Small town, lots of 2nd home owners/retired folks
- Great community, very family-friendly, progressive, may experience some growing pains if growth is not properly managed.
- People live here for a reason, no one is stuck here.
- Small town with many healthy active people.
- Small, eclectic mountain town with a huge sense of community.
- Quaint, slower pace, where people truly care and take time to get to know one another... more culturally diverse than most small CO towns, which is a prerequisite for my happiness.
- nice little town
- Ridgway is a small progressive town in the foot hills.
- Nice community surrounded by beautiful mountains
- Small, friendly town surrounded by natural beauty.
- Small town with great people that is growing into a cute community of artisans and great restaurants
- A small friendly town of 950 people
- friendly mountain town
- Ridgway is an awesome little town that is trying desperately to grow into something it doesn't necessarily need to be.
- Small mountain community that has retained its past ranching identity and continues to exercise small town values.
- Small town community with amazing restaurants and access to the outdoors.
- A small town in a beautiful valley that is growing and changing in ways both good and bad.

- Ridgway is a small town filled with good-hearted people surrounded by the most beautiful mountains on earth.
- A funky town being inundated by hipsters.
- Spectacular beauty, great dining options, great recreational options, charming, quaint, innovative
- Small mountain town with incredible options for food.
- Small, beautiful, amazing people
- Ridgway is a small town with a great community and a growing assortment of unique businesses.
- The gateway between beautiful mountains and the only large town in the area.
- progressive, growing rapidly
- "A very attractive, rustic, community, very friendly caring people, many of whom are active in their community.
- Ample parks that are well kept as well as all the town facilities like the library, town hall, fire dept. etc. The town staff are very knowledgeable as is the town council.
- The town is farsighted, striving through this master plan to look ahead and strive to make this community even better. "
- Ridgway is a friendly, clean, safe, beautiful, mellow town at the foot of the San Juans with great food, great community and great access to the outdoors.
- Small ranching town, bedroom community
- Small mountain town with a "regular" community - not over the top wealth or tourism, strong community in the most beautiful part of the state.
- A beautiful valley with a wonderful community of conscious people.
- A down to earth, creative, diverse and open minded community.
- Small, unpretentious mountain town community in the heart of the San Juan Mountains.
- A small town with lots of arts, music and food to take advantage of with plenty of beautiful scenery and recreation activities.
- I try not to advertise Ridgway. There is no shortage of people who are discovering this wonderful small town.
- "Warm, welcoming, creative, outdoorsy, Healthy community"
- It is a serene, beautiful town!
- Caters to pot heads and hippies
- A small forward thinking outdoor focused community.
- Small mountain town near telluride.
- A small mountain town with creativity and progressive values.
- A family of loving people who want to live with smiles on their faces.
- Mountain town in N San Juans with a good community.
- A closely knit, small, mountain community where a lot happens at the grassroots level.
- Small mountain town with art and music community events in an easily accessible location.
- A beautiful mountain town.
- beautiful and small with close proximity to the mountains
- A small mountain town filled with people who care for one another and know each other on more than just a name basis.



- A beautiful, progressive place filled with creative and intelligent people.
- Great community, moderately liberal, that hasn't been hugely discovered yet.
- Mountain town with central access to recreation, close to many things but not having to be "in" them, with amazing heart.
- A unique, small mountain town with a rich ranching history nestled at the foot of the majestic San Juan Mountains.
- It is laid back, free of crowds/traffic and super beautiful.
- A unique and artsy town, one of those rare places that still experiences true community
- Ridgway is soaking up the soul that Telluride is losing.
- a pleasant mountain community
- Beautiful with great access to the mountains.
- The billionaires push the millionaires down valley.
- It is a gem. Small town, population of 1000 people. One of the most beautiful places on earth.
- It is a small, eclectic artistic community that is growing.
- Unique, isolated enjoyable and captivating
- Gorgeous small mountain town with a peaceful life and great community.
- A beautiful small mountain town, with energetic, outgoing, community-minded people.
- Beautiful, Artsy
- It's Beautiful, But Artsy Fartsy
- Ridgway is a great place to live with a wonderful community.
- The beauty of the mountains without the people.
- Mini telluride
- Quaint little town nestled on the edge of the San Juans.
- A small but growing community in a "pass through" town that is quickly becoming a tourist destination because of its surrounding beauty, trails, restaurants and arts/ music scene.
- Down to Earth community in a resort setting.
- The perfect small town that encompasses all that makes Colorado, Colorado.
- Small town, lots of creative, active outdoor community, great food, close community, rural mountain town feel, affordable.
- Small and unique. Amazing scenery, hot springs, micro brew pub, awesome food.
- Small town surrounded by beautiful mountains with a high quality of life.
- Ridgway is in the prettiest part of Colorado.
- Friendly place to live
- A quiet, progressive town full of interesting, creative, outdoors-oriented people located in a beautiful, remote setting.
- The best place on earth
- Unassuming mountain town where the charms grow on you the longer you stay.
- Great little community surrounded by beautiful mountains
- Small town with growing pains.
- Small, tight knit, outdoorsy, artsy and friendly. Core ranching community is at the roots of the community.
- Ridgway is a small town with friendly people.

- A genuine, authentic community.
- Lots of beauty, sunshine, great people and a community that cares
- Ridgway is a compassionate, caring, progressive and creative-minded community with many opportunities for friendship with like-minded people and ways to become involved in the community's vision.
- I love Ridgway because of the community, its weather, how easy it is to get to the amazing mountains, the friendly, warm citizens, RAT and pickleball!
- Lots of outdoor activities, great restaurants, beautiful parks and great people.
- A small Colorado mtn town that is coming into its own identity.
- a quirky tiny town in the middle of nowhere full of diverse folks who love the beauty of the mountains
- A small town with a community feeling
- Hey small mountain town full of great people with a huge creative arts focus and great restaurants.
- Beautiful mountain town full of ranch history.
- Ridgway is a small friendly community of people who enjoy the outdoors and like to be a part of what makes it so special.
- A quintessential small Colorado mountain town set in one of the most spectacular scenic areas of the country with a community of creative, active, entrepreneurial, spiritual, independent, and fun-loving individuals and outdoor enthusiasts.
- Ridgway allows me to raise my children with a village yet we have the amenities of a much larger community.
- Small town in beautiful setting
- A friendly, forward thinking Colo mountain town with a unique mix of ranching / ag influence, outdoor opportunities, and cultural amenities.
- The gateway to many heavens!
- Ridgway is a beautiful mountain town with a creative community nestled between the Cimarron and San Juan mountains.
- Ridgway is a mountain town post card: it's beautiful, charming, and you have to keep reminding yourself it's real.
- A small, creative town with a lot of characters. People are open minded and accepting and like to learn from each other. There's innovation and people seem to know, recognize and value that they are somewhere very special
- awesome
- Beautiful, full of character, and a tight knit community.
- A small, beautiful mountain community that sits in one of Colorado's most beautiful mountain valleys.
- An active, creative community in the beautiful San Juans between Telluride and Ouray.
- As a neat little town that is going through a mid-life crisis and trying to figure out what it wants to be when it grows up.
- It's a very funky atmosphere with a liberal community.
- The perfect small town, just enough amenities without too many. You know most people and can walk to everywhere you need to go. Perfect place to raise a family.
- Awesome. Community
- At the foot of an incredible mountain range, this small town has so many

interesting, warm people, and so much to explore; it is a very special place.

- Lovely little mountain town
- gateway to the san juans. 45 minutes from everything
- The perfect blend of a mountain town and a rural community.
- A beautiful mountain town; the gateway to the San Juans.
- Mini telluride
- An authentic, gorgeous mountain town with a strong sense of community, creativity and character.
- Small town, exquisite beauty, great people
- Small and friendly
- Beautiful, small, mountain town.
- Once upon a time in the West there was a tiny place that nobody paid much attention to that was in the middle of a naturally wonderful environment, until the world discovered it, and now it is just another place trying hard to attract big money in order to make itself into something else, and please developers make more money.
- Small Mountain town filled with tourists most of the year
- Small Town
- An eclectic mixture of generally social people with diverse backgrounds who share a love of our beautiful surroundings, products and sense of community.
- Think Outside
- A town of about 1,000 people 7,000 feet in the mountains surrounded by high peaks, where the streets are dirt, and we have the only traffic light in the county.
- It is a tremendously beautiful, healthy & welcoming community.
- Small town with great food options and a fantastic array of outdoor opportunities without crowds.
- A community that is centered economically around the citizens.
- small town USA that is getting too expensive for working folk
- A sweet little mount town
- not Ouray or Telluride, a once tight nit community trending towards investment properties and trophy homes
- it's a true community of caring individuals, about one another and the environment
- Ridgway is low key, laid back and gets more sun than Ouray in the winter.
- Progressive.
- Friendly, charming small town nestled in a valley surrounded by majestic peaks. From delightful cuisine and incredible music to pure wilderness-Ridgway has everything I could wish for. This is the place I want to raise my kids.
- Lots of hippies and pot smoking
- A vibrant community surrounded by beautiful scenery
- Great, family-friendly, progressive community and a "crossroads" with great access to recreation.
- a nice place to live
- A town that's trying to be another Telluride.
- Ridgway is a small town with a big heart in a perfect location.
- Friendly, informal, welcoming community in a beautiful setting surrounded by mountains and with great live music and numerous excellent restaurants.

- Valley town at the base of the San Juan Mountains with an evolving, vibrant town and economy and too many liquor stores and pot shops.
- Beautiful, creative and innovative
- A Norman Rockwell type of community with a spirit to match
- Generous and involved community that cares about its residents and environment
- A charming, friendly small town at the base of the San Juan Mountains.
- An incredible, small Colorado mountain community.
- A unique mix of a ranching/agricultural community with lots of community support for the arts and incredible access to public lands.
- A Town that is growing out of control. The people in charge make the changes what they like and not what the community.
- Relaxed, authentic.
- A creative, progressive welcoming community surrounded by natural beauty and opportunities to access a plethora of recreational options.
- Beautiful mountain town with a great sense of community.
- A high desert, small, forward thinking town at the foot of the Sneffels Range.
- Small, progressive, town with interesting, happy and active people, surrounded by scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, recreational opportunities.
- Boulder west
- small town, big heart
- A great small western town with lots of community spirit.
- A small, beautiful town that is growing too fast.
- Small town community with metro arts and food scene
- A culturally vibrant, community-minded, kick-ass small town at the foot of the San Juans!
- A place with just the right amount of amenities and friendly, working class folks who feel like kindred spirits with similar values.
- It's a nice small town in the mountains
- A fast growing mountain valley community with liberal views.
- small arts community at the entrance to fantastic mountains
- Ridgway is a quaint mountain hamlet surrounded by the most stunning majesty of nature.
- Friendly.
- Small.
- One of the few best places to live in the entire West, great people, great atmosphere, great outdoor recreation opportunities and beauty.
- Beautiful town, inclusive community.
- Active and involved
- Ridgway is a tiny town nestled in the mountains that is forward thinking, has a thriving food scene, and is close enough to bigger-city amenities (Montrose) to make it feel less like living in the boondocks than many other towns its size. It is near endless recreational opportunities but is not a ski town. It is truly a community comprised of people that choose to be here and one whose economy isn't solely reliant on a ski area, despite benefiting from proximity to Telluride.
- Beautiful mountain town in the heart of the San Juan Mountains.

- Relaxed, fun, supportive, intellectually interested, and outdoor oriented.
  - A small, active, creative community.
  - A small town surrounded by naturally beauty, close to Ouray and Telluride, but changing...
  - A creative little mountain town with hippies, ranchers, and everyone in between.
  - A town struggling to keep the western flavor but too influenced by people who want to change it
  - Ridgway is my home
  - Great all year round community surrounded by beautiful mountains
  - The most beautiful small town in the world!
  - Beautiful small mountain town.
  - Great small town, nice park and walk along the river, lots of good restaurants.
  - Friendly
  - A small scenic town with creative, hard-working, community-minded people.
  - Quintessential small town western Colorado with progressive outlook.
  - Inclusive Community.
  - A safe small town with beautiful natural surroundings, great for raising a family.
  - A friendly mountain town in one of the most beautiful parts of the country
  - Ridgway is a small mountain town that has endless outdoor opportunities and a great community.
  - "Crossroads town, lots of traffic noise from 550 and 62.
  - The first thing you see in Ridgway is "Weed For Sale" That alone describes our Town and who we are. It's what sponsors our Concert series!!!!
  - a true community
  - Verrry small town.
  - Ridgway is a dusty small town with some hidden treasures.
  - I don't anymore. I rather not see it grow too much more.
  - Fabulous arts and creative district, set amongst the most beautiful setting with a wide range of community minded people.
  - an eclectic small mountain town
  - Ridgway is a beautiful place to live.
  - Personable, helpful, great place to live
  - A town that exists on the creativity of people wearing many hats, scratching out multiple jobs, to keep it alive and functioning because of how much they love it here.
  - A small, quiet town at the foot of one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the lower 48. Precious and threatened by money and growth
  - Small Colorado town with great sense of community
  - Gate way to fun! Good community. Centrally located.
  - A beautiful small town with more to do than you can possibly keep up with!
  - Friendly, creative, hardworking, playful, smart involved
  - former ranching, highway intersection, speed trap (good) town with irrational obsession with pavement and "fluff"
- NON-RESIDENT**
- This is Our Mayberry with mountain beauty
  - This is small town American with a giant heart.
  - Small town community surrounded by recreation opportunities.

- Best views in Colorado, constant sunshine, and a central location to all things awesome.
- one stop light town
- It's a one stop light town.
- Ridgway has incredible weather, is close to so many outdoor activities and has spectacular scenery!
- Small town, rural, scenic views, friendly
- its near or on the way to telluride or Ouray.
- A bedroom community Often overlooked on the way to telluride
- Fun little mountain town
- There are more creative people here doing their own thing than anywhere I have previously lived.
- Small town that has a growing retail and restaurant sector, and a friendly quiet community
- "A wonderful mixture of old hippies, long time ranchers and new transplants who all share a love of the natural beauty of the region."
- A gorgeous location with a live and let live attitude.
- not the nice place it used to be
- A crossroads community that is developing into a wonderful family community.
- A spectacular and uniquely beautiful small town of quality not quantity. The people are cultured and creative. There are things we all have in common from the get go because we are drawn to and have chosen to settle in Ridgway.
- A special community with something for all ages and interests and wonderful friendly people.
- Small town with good amenities, open mountain views, great people with community orientation.
- A mountain town with original buildings, great restaurants, no chains, except Family Dollar.
- A small mountain town that has kept its character with dirt roads and a community that respects the environment, the arts and has great one off restaurants.
- Small town setting in an beautiful location
- Ridgway is a small town with very friendly people and is absolutely in the most spectacular place on earth.
- Beautiful and friendly community
- It's kind of like a New Age Mayberry.
- Artsy, Fartsy, always under construction, eclectic little stopover in the middle of the most gorgeous real estate in Colorado.
- Small town, environmentally involved.
- It is a wonderful mix of creative and hardworking people who value their small town existence.
- Beautiful area and friendly community
- Ridgway is a small mountain town with friendly residents who care about their quality of life ... environmentally and socially.
- Small mountain town with dirt roads and no chain stores.
- Small town, great people, good schools, perfect place for hiking, biking, running
- Ridgway is laid back, not over-developed, unpretentious, not overrun by chain stores, environmentally sensitive, willing to control its destiny rather than roll over for developers, and ready to invest in the social and cultural well-being of its residents.

- Ridgway is a town with a wide variety of interesting people in a beautiful valley.
- Small mountain town, good food, lots of things to do outside.
- Ridgway is growing like crazy and has great potential.
- Rustic, western mountain town that will appeal to ranchers, farmers and outdoor enthusiasts
- I prefer to keep it a secret.
- A nice little ranching community with great history and people.
- Quickly growing, community focused, foodie town.
- excessive signs, cement, asphalt, painted parking spaces, rod iron art sculpture and propane tank benches
- An artistic, outdoorsy, friendly mountain community.
- A cozy mountain town where everybody enjoys the spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and valley and respects nature in all of its beauty.
- Small town mountain charm not pretentious
- A small town where people still don't lock their doors.
- Beautiful, quaint, desirable, with surrounding activities that can't be matched.
- small friendly laid back mountain town
- Beautiful, small town atmosphere.
- ...a small mountain town in one of the most beautiful places in Colorado.
- Exciting, energetic, fun and very stable.
- small mountain town
- A town that is getting better. The updates is a much needed face lift to our small town.
- close knit, progressive community that is grappling with allowing growth without sacrificing its soul
- An eclectic town that isn't anything like Montrose, Ouray, or Telluride.
- down valley Telluride
- It is becoming a great place For artists, creative businesses, and has a sense of community
- A very cute little town with amazing views and small town vibe.
- Ridgway is unique in the sense that it is one of the most beautiful small mountain towns, is full of friendly, down to earth people and is an eco and art conscious community.
- A small town in the mountains.
- A small, yet still diverse community of people that are good, caring people. We may not always agree, but we can work together and look out for one another.
- Great place to raise your child.
- A National Park that slipped through the cracks.
- A more progressive, forwarding-thinking small town
- Small, quaint town with a lot of beauty.
- The perfect mountain town full of local character, remarkable views, and friendly neighbors.
- Beautiful and interesting. Telluride before it was ruined.
- This is a place one can relax and enjoy silence.
- I tell them it's a sensational small town vibe nestled among some of the best scenery in the country. I also direct them to the website to see pictures.
- Small mountain town with excellent outdoor activity options

- Nice little mountain town with beautiful views and a small town atmosphere.
- A small community that is growing and becoming a bedroom community to Telluride.
- A nice small town with great mountain views.
- Beautiful, peaceful, quiet.
- Small friendly town with easy access to rugged beauty
- Tourist stop
- Small town, respect for traditional values and love of historical buildings and landmarks.
- It's a great little town, a crossroads both literally in terms of the character of the people; a mix of ranchers, farmers, townspeople, extreme athletes, creatives of all types, and just plain lovers of craziness and joy who most of the time "all just get along."
- Beautiful location, wonderful people, low stress politics, great weather when there is adequate snow/rain.
- Adorable
- It's like a mini Boulder.
- Friendly town with small class sizes at school
- Town in flux of change?
- Ridgway is a sleepy mountain town in a stunning setting.
- Beautiful Colorado mountain community.
- a small community of people who share my values
- Tiny town with exceptional beauty.
- Ridgway is a small, but progressively minded community. Honestly, I'd also say Ridgway has a problem with wanting to be like their big brother Telluride.
- Ridgway should have its own identity, not just become as spillover of Telluride.
- Ridgway is a small, but progressively minded mountain town.
- A stunning and creative mountain community with a genuine Western character and a sustainable outlook on growth.
- A beautiful mountain community that would be in anyone's top three (without argument) Colorado scenic places to live and play. It still has that old west feel and the place where the original True Grit movie was filmed. An awesome place surrounded by majestic mountains and nearby reservoirs.
- Ridgway is a sweet little town surrounded by beauty
- 9 months of winter and 3 months of company! Ha, that's because I don't want it to seem too attractive. I say I love it here and love the people.
- Friendly small town.
- Pot town
- Historically Ridgway was the hub of the outlying mining Town with the mining Towns now turning into tourist attractions Ridgway is once again becoming the hub of the western slope.
- Small, beautiful town
- Great small town atmosphere. Small town feel with awesome mountain views.
- A beautiful small town nestled in the mountains
- Everything is overpriced.
- Ridgway is an overflow community of the Telluride initiative to make this area inaccessible to those who can't afford multiple homes in hopes to attract outdoor enthusiasts to a new world resort.
- Small town with great people



- Close knit
- An idyllic and tight-knit mountain community.
- Mountain Valley small
- It's a sell out!!! , don't move here because the community is not at all inclusive sporting community.
- Small, quiet mountain town. Mayberry that is losing itself to a blind growth mania.
- Small mountain town in between Montrose and Telluride, both in terms of physical location and community traits.
- Beautiful, fun, innovative place to live.
- small town close to recreation
- Nice town
- Beautiful surroundings small town w good restaurants, art and culture
- The state park is nice. I've always thought of the town itself as more of a place to drive through than a destination.
- small, in middle of a greater region of numerous activities.
- A friendly, diverse and tolerant community with a lot happening for its size and incredible outdoor recreation resources.
- Gateway to San Juans, ranching town with a modern twist.
- Uber recreation and amazingly talented people
- A mountain town with an amazing collection of artists and world class athletes.
- A small, friendly town with a lot going on.
- Scenic, friendly small ranching town near great tourist locations
- A small village with great amenities and very friendly people
- Most beautiful place in America. Period.
- "eclectic mix of People and Employment
- Large Valley Beautiful Views of Mountains Was a strong ranching area.
- Ridgway is a small mountain community dedicated to its outdoor recreation and tight knit community.
- a nice little town surrounded by beautiful ranches
- Beautiful, fun little mountain community with lots of outdoor and other activities and lots of music.
- A friendly little town that is becoming too glitz but still a fun place to visit.
- It's a nice small yet progressive mountain town in a beautiful valley with a community-oriented artsy atmosphere, yet a difficult place to make a living due to lack of affordable housing, inflated real estate costs, high cost of living, and lack of employment opportunities
- Small mountain town in rural Colorado
- a gateway town to the mountains, enjoying a unique, local, style and character which is gaining popularity and desirability with visitors and investors.
- It's between Montrose, Ouray and Telluride.
- great year round weather and beautiful
- Ridgway embodies the "New West" in a small community, with elements of old and new mixing in a creative, welcoming, and gorgeous setting.
- Laid back.
- a bedroom community of Telluride
- A small, growing town just outside the mountains.
- A progressive small town.
- Ridgway feels like a retirement community targeted at upper middle class white people who prefer to keep

Ridgway as a mountain vacation town, with a small portion of the population (young, athletic, and creative) working in jobs (construction, fitness, arts) catering to the older population and tourists.

- Tight knit community
- Ridgway is a great small town with great people, arts, and food without the overload of seasick tourists towns like Telluride and Ouray
- The best family you can ever have.
- Small town, easy to assimilate if you understand the culture.
- The mountain views
- Close knit and fun place nested in a world of beauty.
- Small Town
- A loving community of mostly like-minded, thoughtful people.
- Small town nestled in the mountains
- A former great small Colorado town!
- Beautiful, peaceful and safe
- A beautiful area with many things to do. But watch out for the flow of Transients who get drunk and high.
- Ridgway is an expansive, sunlit valley full of artists-from ranchers to sculptors.
- A historic small town that is slowly forgetting its past but is still a great place to live.
- beautiful place to live with amazing community
- Natural beauty
- No crime
- No noise
- Its gentrified and busy, too much traffic, plenty to do if you dare enter town nowadays.
- A very small town in a beautiful setting that is growing and adding services which will ultimately make it more livable
- sweet small community with amazing opportunities
- Unique
- great place to live for the outdoors opportunities.
- Brigadoon
- Right now, beautiful small town.
- Small mountain town.
- A spot in the road located in beautiful, quiet southwest corner of Colorado.
- It is a small town with country values and beautiful views.
- Remote small town in the mountains
- Perfectly situated between Montrose (retail and airport) and Telluride (skiing and entertainment).
- Pristine Majestic Mountains views like no other place in America. Peaceful, quiet and small.
- Beautiful, charming city with eclectic individuals
- A small, vibrant mountain community far enough from crowds, but close to needed services and amenities.
- Historic, quirky, growing, awesome
- Small town, great scenery, good schools, small businesses, but having “growing pains”.
- A great small community with friendly people and lots to do close by.
- It is a mountain lifestyle with hometown presence and values. The people are awesome and the environment is fairly untouched.
- cool
- Historical ranching/railroad town located in a very scenic area but struggling

because of a changing economy that impacts rural communities.

- A highway intersection that you probably wouldn't like.
- Welcoming and friendly community in a bucolic setting
- Has natural beauty along with great friends and family
- A friendly western ranch town with a thriving music and art scene, nestled at the foot of the San Juan Mountains in the Uncompahgre River Valley.
- Laid back, friendly, slow paced, wonderful music scene, beautiful scenery, uncrowded.
- Unique
- Small town, great location, friendly people, lots of fun
- A small town mountain community that is environmentally responsible
- Ridgway has a good climate, spectacular scenery and a fine community.
- A small and friendly town in the mountains.
- Paradise
- small Colorado town with a lot of fun events, good schools and great views
- Beautiful, small mountain town with a wonderful community.
- Small mountain town with an eclectic mix of people.
- A small town with friendly people, beautiful scenery and great restaurants!
- Seeing is moving
- Glorious
- Ridgway is a little Western town with a big heart, surrounded by incredible mountain scenery.
- Simply beautiful
- Paradise! But the no vacancy sign is out
- Majestic
- Great place/area, but the no vacancy sign is out
- A progressive community with many local artists and citizens who are very involved and passionate about the town and county.
- A quaint little town surrounded by mountains.
- Small town, beautiful and friendly
- An amazing community of open-loving people, surrounded by incredible beauty, with many interesting activities within the Uncompahgre river valley.
- Absolutely stunning small mountain town.
- A very small town with way more than average amounts of heart, community, creativity, and beauty
- Diverse community in an outstanding location.
- This is a town where people care about each other and take care of their own.
- A small town in a beautiful mountain setting that is not dependent on skiing or tourism.
- Ridgway is a beautiful small town with a tight knit community.
- Very beautiful, lack of Hwy & Road Maintenance compared to other Colorado Counties
- undiscovered
- Magical
- Ridgway is a beautiful small town in southwestern Colorado.
- Great little town at the crossroads to Ouray and Telluride, where the locals live and are free to enjoy the mountain beauty and lifestyle.
- Low key w beautiful environment

- Friendly and active community with great restaurants.
- Ridgway is a small town where everyone looks out for each other.
- It's a unique rural setting with access to everything we need within two hours of travel time.
- Small mountain town with an eclectic mix of people
- Small town with a small town feel nestled at the base of the San Juan's
- Rustic. Older retired community. No youthful singles scene. Stuck in the "that's the way it's always been" mentality. Pretty area. Expensive to eat and live. Pot culture.
- A small town in an amazingly beautiful location.
- Small quiet town (except for occasional loud concerts) in gorgeous mountain setting where the environment is still respected above personal financial gain.
- Awesome
- It is a small, liberally leaning mountain town with a huge investment in its community - parks, farmers market, cultural events, great restaurants, and an awesome library.
- A unique and growing Small town surrounded by incredible beauty with boundless recreational opportunities, but becoming more and more expensive to live especially for young people to afford to buy housing and also limited job opportunity.
- Small town atmosphere that is NOT a destination but well positioned to access destination centers and recreational amenities here and elsewhere.
- very good community; friendly, safe, small, beautiful
- Small town with friendly and welcoming people with progressive ideas.
- "A diverse community at the foot of the San Juans with abundant wildlife, beautiful scenery, and residents willing to share their various gifts.
- "
- Small population creative community full of open-hearted folks, and a gateway to San Juan adventures.
- It's a small mountain community with good people and lots of outdoor activities plus the arts.
- A beautiful little ranching community close to Ouray and Telluride
- Its growing but starting to grow too fast
- It is Mayberry.
- A wonderful community with enormous beauty. We love our little town.
- Small.
- Good old mountain town in danger of becoming another rich-only mountain resort.
- It's kind of like a New Age Mayberry
- Small town community nestled at the base of Americas most beautiful mountains.
- Small, quiet, friendly, natural beauty.
- Good town, but it is ruining itself with its own self-promotion.
- Small town surround with gorgeous mountains and valley and historical buildings

## Q10: WHEN ARE YOU/WERE YOU MOST PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY?

### Arts/Culture

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Probably at some of the concert series shows; couldn't believe some of the awesome music we were seeing in such a small town!
- When it takes steps to improve itself through cultural resources.
- Attending free events in the park.
- The support of the arts to some extent.
- Summer concerts, Streetscape, food heaven.
- I love the community-wide events, such as the farmers market, summer concert series, Love Your Valley Fest, the arts markets, etc.
- Summer events
- The farmers market/Sherbino, general community involvement
- Artspace... and programs focused on making opportunities for working artists to thrive here.
- Concerts, community events
- during the first couple year when music in the park first started- Ridgway was starting to really appreciate the arts more, but it wasn't so overwhelmed with tourists/new people moving in from cities
- Rodeo time
- All the time! But recently, the focus on making Ridgway liveable for artists and small business owners.
- Creative district designation
- Summer activities
- Music and art in the community
- I love the art installations around town. I think public art is so important to this community. It's part of how we create our identity.
- Space to Create
- During the summer concert series and the farmers market.
- Concert series, off season.
- Being named a creative district
- All year long. But especially with the community gathers and supports the arts!!
- The growth of the arts in the community
- Right this moment. The completed streetscape, the arts collective and sherbino theater, the great food available. I'd like to pause time right now.
- I am proud of the robust arts programming, preservation of open spaces, public arts, and forward thinking about shortage of affordable housing.
- Summer concerts. Sherbino theaters many productions.
- during community events like farmer's market, events at the sherb, concert series, etc
- The support the community shows for art, music, and lifestyle.
- Festivals, music, and farmers markets we have.
- Music in the park - what this small town can pull off!
- Always! I've brought friends to plays at the Sherbino (loved that the mayor was in the play!) and Riverfest (Sugar and the Mint were awesome). The green space here gives a sense of freedom. The low key vibe and peacefulness is to be cherished. Ridgway should be proud of how it's grown/developed thus far.
- Local Events

- Summer concerts in the park, escorting visitors to sightsee in the mountains, witnessing the generosity of donors to the Food Pantry and to environmental causes, showing off our new downtown with its sidewalks, restaurants, more shops, and PAVED STREETS & landscaping! Events like skjoring with the horses---the diversity of people and events. Also, the friendliness of people encountered around town, and the diversity of our farmer's market. And having the river path as a lovely place to walk now and then.
- During community events like community concerts, Labor Day festivals, Farmer's Market, RAT race
- Special events such as river festival and the music events
- at Sherbino events, both the lively dancing times and the more serious lectures about significant topics.
- When we're all having a good time at music in the Park.
- Seeing all of the long standing festivals and events and the completion of the RAMP project.
- During music in the park every summer, the overall results of the beautification project, the community feel that the downtown area has with such a great selection of restaurants.
- Balancing out the interests of our community with the arts and the heritage.
- supporting music in the park and building the stage
- When everyone lets their hair down dancing in the park
- Summer concerts, Streetscape project, passing school bonds, overall positive direction

## NON-RESIDENT

- loved the whole idea of alley art and what it symbolized
- loved alley art
- There are some good dancers and music lovers in this town, it's great to get together at the park or around town and dance all night long.
- Parades, fundraising for the school, music in the park
- On Labor Day, during the parade and rodeo.
- I am very proud of what the community has done to the Sherbino Theatre.
- "I am so proud of what the community has done to restore the Sherbino."
- Now with the place to create designation and all of the updates completed in the last 2 years.
- I am very proud of the restoration work on the Sherbino Theatre and the people who made it happen
- music in the park
- Concert season
- When folks get together for free music in the park
- "Noel night and parade!
- Sherbino events
- Ridgway river fest"
- "I'm proud of the restaurants and businesses, the way the town feels, on summer music nights and all the other community events that the town, businesses and community provide.
- When a tourist remarks at how "great this little town is" and starts making plans to move here before he finishes his coffee!"
- The concerts in the park are a jewel in Ridgway's crown. Well organized, well

attended, and exceptionally community building.

- when I heard that it was designated as a creative art district
- Concerts, poetry slide shows all events at Sherbino, fundraisers for families in need at Sherbino, library functions and art events.
- With our recent additions to a great food, art and music scene.
- When the community comes together for music, farmers market, Sherbino shows and other town events.
- Special events, concerts
- Becoming art community
- Labor Day Rodeo - when old and new all come together.
- Concert nights
- The Thursday night July concerts.
- When they were actively promoting the creative community
- When collaboration and support amongst the community members is observed.
- At the concerts in the park.
- concerts in the park
- music in the park
- When people from all different parts of life and political viewpoints come together and put up amazing shows at the Sherbino (STC)
- Some of the great events presented
- I come to Ridgway mostly for the arts & entertainment
- Sherbino Theater productions
- Community theater productions
- Music in the park, good restaurants
- Great festivals and environmentally conscious.
- free summer concerts

- Concerts.

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I feel the most pride in our community when we gather to celebrate the life and times of one our deceased or in need residents.
- When we did not have an agenda to grow and develop into another exclusive Colorado community with expensive houses. I SERIOUSLY AND CONSCIOUSLY took pride in our town when I dropped my kids off at the Elementary, secondary, and High school over a decade and did not see a single Mercedes, BMW, or Porsche drive out of the parking lots. When I noticed this last year, I said "oh Shit". I have told many people about this observation.
- When attending community events where people are enjoying one another and the activities available.
- The park is being used for gatherings, concert and events. Locals pull together and support one another. I have enjoyed watching the development of trails, improvements around town, abundance of social activities and improvements in dining experiences.
- I was most proud of our community when I moved here 15 years ago. The town was a mix of ranchers and mountain enthusiasts. We weren't trying to make "the best towns in the west" list by becoming a tourist town with paved streets and boutique restaurants and shops. I feel like the ranchers are being over taken by the influx of the wealthy "yuppie" community that are driving the price of living up and forcing those that have lived here for many years to sell and move elsewhere,

- I'm proud of the way Ridgway supports its historic ranching and farming heritage, while also supporting creative endeavors, outdoor recreation, and environmental protection.
- support from community/friends in true time of need
- The great turnout, discussions, and involvement with the presidential caucuses during the last election cycle.
- supporting local charities and events
- When the community comes together to help those in need. I also am proud of things like our dark skies program. I like that our voices are heard (most of the time) and that we can make a difference!
- When I know we do not even know where our house key is, and have not for 8 years!!! Everybody looks out for each other and cares about their neighbors.
- Walking down the street and the friendly greetings
- Ridgway has heart - evidenced by - Second Chance, dZi Foundation, a fabulous! Library, Sherbino, Weehawken, and so many other organizations powered by volunteers.
- Coming together to support someone in need
- When people show they care by the way they live.
- When it was still a ranching community that rallied around our local school and its activities.
- When I see somebody hired in town that could probably ever be bored elsewhere. When I see local kids both leaving and coming back to visit or live. Whinnying people decide to try to make it here and have to have two or three jobs because it means that much to them (looking for their nitch). Reading articles about WCC or dZi in national publications. Sharing dinner with my neighbors. Seeing community members step up to help somebody else, who they may not even know that well ..... community kindness. Seeing the people who are on Town Council deal with other people and our business.
- Not one moment or event, but in general how the community always comes together when someone is in need. It is to me, a very caring, conscious community. But, a proud moment was passing the UROD, anytime nature gets protection is a proud moment for me.
- When it stood up to support a community member in need
- When the community comes together to support each other.
- Good people, living here for common reasons.
- At the community meals where the town comes together to break bread. When someone needs help and many people offer or show up to do so. At Townie Tuesdays, at the July concerts and Love Your Valley. At just about anything at the Sherb. All those times where it is about the people/community (and yes the music/arts/beer lol!)
- Sharing with others how our town is robust with entrepreneurs, healthy food, and folks who care ~ especially when someone is in a crisis.
- friendly mountain town
- I'm always proud of our community when we pull together to help when another member who has a problem or a need.
- I think Ridgway can be a supportive community
- When our daughter had a devastating illness 4 years ago, how everyone came



together to support us, love us and help us pull through.

- I wouldn't use the word proud- but the people, all together w the space is 5□.
- Grateful and proud of this community: the people, the concert series, the small town business and the effort to create a more attractive Main Street away from just a drive through town.
- When our community comes together to make positive things happen.
- When I observe how well we are providing so many opportunities (cultural, educational, programs, etc) to so many residents and visitors while protecting this environment and the character of the town thru wise planned controlled growth.
- Maintaining a warm and friendly atmosphere!
- How connected everyone is
- How forward thinking we are, great leadership and vision at the staff and town council level.
- Approximately 10 years ago, economy struggled but people dug in to figure it out.
- Friendly and down to earth people. The beauty of Ouray Valley and surrounding mountains is phenomenal.
- Great people
- The people, the environmental awareness and great amenities.
- Ridgway doesn't make me proud of our community. We have a town council that has fought economic development and stifled growth and jobs. Now we're in a bind and can't attract high quality teachers with the lack of pay.
- So many times: community support for Jen and Randy Charrette, the Ridgway rainbows, the concerts in the park,

"downtown" (old school and now), Colorado Boy/Provisions/Taco Del Gnar/Eatery 66/Costa Rican, yoga Shala, farmers market, and many more reasons.

- I like when people come together for others. Seeing that neighbors care about each other.
- When everyone get together as a whole for an event or gathering.
- When they stood up for the ranchers and the Miners.
- Helping one another's kids!
- The safety and security felt of raising our kids in a 'free' environment
- civic engagement
- The community involvement in the concerts, festivals, farmer's markets and welcoming support of new businesses.
- It is a pass through town that manages to maintain a sense of being its own town and a destination of sorts. Also Ridgway has some decent restaurants ... and there is no place decent in Montrose.
- Our talented, interesting, friendly people. We have festivals and leave the grounds trash-free. We don't have to lock our doors. Our schools are among the best in Colorado. Protecting the river corridor.
- I have fond memories of how the community showed up and cheered for our HS basketball team in the 90's.
- When we come together from our various walks of life to celebrate or mourn or help a friend.
- When we celebrate each other's sorrows and joys.
- when people come together to help one another
- When people come together to share their vision of what will make our community better.

- Whenever the community members have responded to public issues and showed up at public meetings to let their voice be heard, especially in matters that affect our town and way of life. Similarly, the way we support and show up at local events, like the concerts in the park, parades, rodeo, Riverfest, Love Your Valley, Arts & Crafts Rendez-vous, Sherbino Theatre events, Farmers Market, etc. I am also proud of our ranching heritage and the spirit of rugged western independence and resilience.
- When my sister-in-law unexpectedly passed away quite young, the entire community pulled together to support my family in any and every way they could.
- small town. good views and good people. good restaurants.
- Our community continues to grow and improve.
- Town trash day when the mayor is helping fill dumpsters and everyone in line is chatting and helping out.
- Memorial services in the park for beloved residents
- Anytime there is a local family in need, to see the community come together in support is amazing. What comes to mind quickly is when Axel died.
- Pulling together to help others
- Friendly
- At the town concerts, when I see kids dressing up in provided costumes, playing soccer, tag, etc. all while being watched over by locals who may not even know them.
- When they think and act progressively
- When the community turns out in support of local events: July 4 parade, county fair and rodeo, skijoring, River Festival, etc.
- "When 35 people showed up for a respectful dialogue about gender diversity among students.
- When I've observed civic engagement and commitment to thoughtful planning, transparency in government. Making US News & World Report healthiest communities list."
- When I go to events that are created for the community at large.
- When my three kids graduated from high school and how wonderful and supportive everybody was for each other, having the same friends since early grade school was a joy, watching the kids grow and move on and come back to visit....
- when people greet one another and speak to one another out on the streets and in the parks
- When they pull together to help one another or our community.
- Have only lived here since April. I am proud of the wonderful community feel and the friendliness of people.
- When the majority voted "blue".
- When we come together as a community that supports each other versus a bunch of egos running around the town.
- The coming together, in times of need, to help our fellow community members
- Volunteerism
- When we were looking at moving here, everyone was so friendly compared to our city existence. I love that we know our neighbors and that generally, everyone is friendly here.
- The small town character.
- I WAS most proud when it was a farming and ranching community
- When our mayor stands on the Town Hall stage (or anywhere) and announces how

EVERYONE is welcome here.

Unfortunately, that doesn't mean everyone can afford to live here or feels welcome here.

- Veterans memorial dedication and cattlemen's Dinner
- when people do the right thing
- There was a night we had a fabulous dinner on the patio at Provisions and could see so many folks we loved chatting outside the Boy and listening to live music at the Burro while the alpine glow lit up the Cimarrons. Heaven on earth.
- When it was fiscally conservative and socially liberal.
- I was proud that our community made it easier to vote by adding the voting booths near downtown Ridgway.
- I am most proud when our school systems are recognized for their excellence. I am also proud when my family comes to visit and gets to see what a beautiful community I live in. I love the concerts, and I love the farmers market too.
- When I walk down the street and people say hello to each other
- When community members share how happy they are to live here.
- Holidays! I love the Christmas sale, and Labor Day weekend rodeo, this town really knows how to celebrate.
- how people care about one another
- I'm just proud of the real people here.
- When you see how community members reach out to each other during times of crisis and tragedy.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The best microcosm of how this community functions was witnessed at the recent summer music festival. Just

sitting back and watching adults/children interact was very enriching.

- The people make the community.
- When we reach out to help each other.
- As we have grown we have focused on the preservation of what drew us here. Members of our community have made great effort to focus on culture and quality. I am also proud of and very grateful for our young population. There are marvelous things happening in Ridgway due to many hard working people of vision.
- When I get visitors who see what I see. Also when the town comes together and makes positive things happen. Art and work initiatives.
- Coming together to work on projects of interest to the community at large.
- When it comes together to serve a social or political need.
- When the community reaches out to help others less fortunate or after an accident.
- When we protect our unique attributes
- When we come together to help others
- I like to see all of the residents and visitors who come together in the town park to listen to music, watch movies, etc.
- This community makes me proud when it supports personal freedom of residents and continues the tradition of openness, the friendly mountain way of helping others.
- When lots of people are out and about
- When people have problems in life and the community comes together to support them or their family.
- The people.
- When we treat others with kindness and generosity.

- Labor day parade
- beautiful, friendly people -- creative vibe
- The friendliness of the locals
- The number of people living with big, open hearts.
- As it is related to safety, community willingness to help others and schools
- When we come together to help those in need.
- People are accepted.
- At music in the Park when everyone gets together.
- Easter Sunday
- The community/ people are caring and loving.
- When I had a big family reunion and there were so many fun things for people to do. I have also been very proud / thankful to the people like John Clark and Jen Coates (to name only two) who have a vision for Ridgway and are pursuing that.
- When people take care of each other
- When our Town member were for the community and people, instead of the money.
- when you were not advertising Ridgway in the NYT to make yourselves rich and selling out a beautiful place.
- Community events like farmers markets, spring sales, concerts in the park. Anything that keeps the community close and small enough to know and care about each other.
- The community events for charity get huge turn outs and are always very fun and engaging.
- When it is progressive and accepting of everyone.
- creative active vibrant people
- Anytime I attend meetings, I feel like local gov. really listens, even to us Loghillers who technically are not residents
- Community around concert series, when a member of the community passes away, and the way we embrace new ideas
- It's collective willingness to work on issues together and get things done.
- When I think about the character of the community.
- All of the community activities
- The combined sports teams (soccer) from both schools as it brings both communities together. Kind of silly to have the "competition" of Ouray and Ridgway to me, though it's been explained.
- When the area supported and helped The Ranching community.
- When we work together.
- I am most proud of our community involvement in just about everything.
- When people work together.
- friendly people
- When the community comes together for a cause, health issues of locals and local events
- When we come together for creative and forward-thinking efforts to promote sustainable growth while protecting the values that brought us all together in the first place.
- How people treat each other.
- Events that bring the community and visitors out, like the sneffels marathon, rat fest, ski jouring to name a few.
- The kindness of the people.
- The love shown every day
- Church in the park, Labor Day rodeo

- When Ridgway rallied around Max when he was diagnosed with leukemia, and the Charettes when they lost their boy.
- When everyone helps regardless of beliefs
- During community events in Ridgway. It has a lot to offer in culture, festivals, rodeos etc.
- When we use what we have to build on our future.
- Community events are well attended.
- When I talk to those that live here with us
- During haying and moving cattle. Farmers Market and park concerts. Also during challenging times, like search and rescue efforts.
- When interacting with the community and seeing the views.
- Every day. Every time I see examples of kindness, inclusiveness and liberal values expressed here. When they allowed cannabis shops here.
- Energetic, compassionate, coming together to meet needs of others and involved residents, downtown improvement, street scraping and paving
- Most proud when showing company our area and during special events.
- All the time. At community events where I appreciate the area and the people. Walking down the street and enjoying the care that is being taken to preserve the roots of the town in the architecture of the original buildings.
- during summer concerts, during RiverFest, when my son participates in great outdoor activities with schools and local orgs
- When we rallied together to support a local family that was wrongly incarcerated in ICE and through hard work, protest and commitment, the family was finally released and have citizenship.
- The Sherbino, EMS, beauty, swing people we know every day and their warm greetings
- Church
- After I first moved here 4 yrs ago, I got involved with the playground renovation at the elementary school. I was amazed at how everyone in the community came together to help make the project a reality.
- Pulling together for spouse when one of the community passed away.
- When all the community events are held, like River Fest, Farmers Market, Noel Night, Concerts in the Park, etc.
- I am most proud of our community when we come together, putting political views aside to support people within our community and focus on inclusivity as opposed to exclusivity.
- When we come together, all ages and all backgrounds, for the concert series each July with respect for each other and a focus on music and fun. When I hear or see Ridgway being recognized for the things it's been working on to create community vibrancy.
- Each time they people pulled together to help people who suffered a big loss or were being threatened with a big loss.
- Our mayor and honoring the native Americans who came before us
- I love attending community events, such as the summer concerts and the recent Log Hill Hustle, and seeing how much community members work hard and support each other in these endeavors.
- Helpfulness

- The fact that young teenagers had the initiative to educate the town about single use plastics and that they were so warmly received and supported in their endeavor. In too many communities, students are seen as ignorant and "too young" to effect any real change. Many don't feel it's worth it to make any effort at all, perhaps because the close mindedness of their communities or their feeling that their voices are too small in the huge number of adult residents. It is wonderful to know that Ridgway is neither too large nor close minded to encourage its younger residents in having a voice.
- I have been most proud of our community when it is supportive of 'people' and 'environmental' issues.
- When they are able to reach agreement and overcome threats to the special character of this community.
- when it turns out for a community member in need, or politically and financially supports a new creative proposal.
- Seeing positive changes made with the entire community involved.
- The community spirit (friendliness). commitment to sustainability.
- When we elected Lynn Padgett as County Commissioner. And when we went "Blue" in 2016. Also, when we kept City Market from coming in back in the early 1990s.

## **Economic Development**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- When we kept out city market
- So far Ridgway is still living within its financial means
- Its ability to support local business.

- About 25 years ago when we told Wal-Mart to go fuck itself.
- What amenities Ridgway has to offer for being a small town. The shops, restaurants, and parks.
- Now, as we grow and become our own unique place instead of a bedroom community to house Telluride employees

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- When it launches programs for self-betterment.
- I'm really proud of the change that I have felt in the last 5-10 years. The growth, the growing community, the strength of positive voices over negative voices.
- When it legalized marijuana, not because of the pot but because of the money and job opportunities it has brought into our community.
- Active Chamber involvement in Town decisions
- When I owned a business there.
- I tell people that the city thrives and is a huge success without the commercial influences or the western world!!!
- Concerts in the park, allowing dispensaries, restaurant choices
- When the community decided we did not want a City market.

## **Education**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Ridgway Schools
- when we voted to fund school construction
- Its schools.
- The river trail, building of the middle / high school.
- Schools receiving awards. Fixing hwy 62.

## **NON-RESIDENT**

- When the school has many excellent students graduating and they are off to renowned colleges!!!
- When the schools got recognized as high performers and when the digital infrastructure surpassed neighboring communities
- My children's accomplishments at school
- Our youth and the opportunities we provide them with.
- When our school achieved/achieves status of distinction.
- State test scores
- Anything to do with outdoor recreation and school success.
- The people are educated.
- Ridgway has a great school district which makes students needs and education a priority.
- "love the parade and rodeo.....we as parents like the educational opportunities for our children....the ability to be personally involved in our schools.....love the paved streets.....new lighting.....new artwork
- I was most proud of this community looking back to the early 2000's when it was truly a supporter of the youth in this area whether privileged or not. When the town put more into its local fair, scholarships for kids for sports camps, programs to get kids outdoors that didn't cost someone their monthly salary, and educational agendas that kept kids focused on reaching their goals, and learning things applicable to achieving those goals, not who is running for president, why they should start questioning their gender in grade school, etc.

- School related activities
- When I interact with the elementary school teachers, administrators, and staff.
- Proud of the school rating

## **Housing**

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Active planning for affordable housing.
- When the affordable housing committee was created and the town began loosening its zoning regulations to accommodate this type of housing.
- When the town is willing to look at issues like affordable housing and tolerance.
- Years ago when a huge group of people showed up at the Ridgway School cafeteria to stop a big housing development on land that now belongs to the Double RL.

## **Infrastructure and Public Services**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- RAMP up project
- When they provided asphalt streets into the core of our town.
- Development of Rat Trails, completion of Main Street renovation, every July during free music season!
- Improvements streetscape, creative community, ramp project improvements, the diversified character of our town and it's residents, and positive atmosphere and culture
- When the community takes a step forward to make improvements in the towns infrastructure.
- I'm most proud of the community's support for progress in areas like the RAT

Trails and Streetscape project. I like the direction of this progress but am also cognizant of it attracting more and more people to the Western Slope and our Town and weary that this growth will degrade the quality of life in Ridgway.

- I've appreciated the infrastructure improvements, the pride the community has taken in those improvements, and the inclusion of local artists in making the improvements.
- When UROD was passed and the whole RAMP project was completed.
- Completion of the RAMP
- Now. The streetscape has improved quality of life, restaurants are great, school is great, music and culture options have grown and are fantastic.
- Proud of our animal shelter, that we supported the street scape, and when our concerts in the park started. They are getting out of control though!
- When Ridgway finished the RAMP project!
- Clean
- When we started paving and doing streetscapes, when sentiment began to change from "no-growth" to "smart growth."
- Proud that the community invests in itself . . . with the park, library, roads, and art.
- Improving Highway 62
- And...bringing a great library into the town!"

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- I'm impressed with the managed business signage, and the hospitality of the local population. Infrastructure is fantastic.
- That finally SOMETHING was done to improve our downtown area. LONG

overdue. Change is possible for our little town.

- Passing bond issues to build library building.
- The last couple of years prior to beginning our Streetscape program.
- Down town improvements
- Now, with all the efforts to install dark Sky lighting and improve historic district. Adopting a countywide dark Sky ordinance.
- The recent streetscape/CO-35 improvements
- before streetscape upgrades
- When I had a business in town, the streets weren't paved and the town had a rough around the edges feel.
- When money began to be spent on downtown, and that it was after water security and upgrades were made. Also when secondary school bond passed.
- The revitalization of downtown.
- Construction on Sherman St.
- Our High School, Our Fire Dept.
- Community willing to fund new library and secondary school building.
- Ramp Up.
- When the community committed to the revitalization of downtown (library, street paving, installation of sidewalks...)
- The continuation, development of the river trail. I think the trail is such an important part of being in town and being able to quickly and easily access nature for a variety of abilities and ages. Improving the 4-H building and area with the help of a wealthy community member. I think it is a valuable space for large groups to gather. The building of the new middle high school! the building of the school climbing wall. The Ridgway



Concert Series. The Ridgway State Park is a great asset to our residents and visitors.

- The Streetscape improvements
- When parks were taken care of and initiatives like Dark Sky and Master Plans got promoted.
- New streetscaping of Downtown
- Paving the roads and parking lots (keep doing it!) Updating the Sherbino.
- When the streetscape was completed
- When main street was improved.
- when had less traffic going thru main st.

I suggest that make a byway north of town. Telluride is going to grow more and more and will create a very congested town. Will take away from ranching and country town.

## Land Use & Built Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- So far the growth has been very positive and beneficial to the community - and well planned and thought out.
- When becoming a strip mall town was combated by citizens and a few key town board members.
- Also, the focus on keeping growth in and close to the town core, not sprawling out into the open lands surrounding the community.
- Responsible growth and planning and community involvement
- When we actively support smart growth initiatives like the new high school, the new library and the ramp project.
- Following the RAMP infrastructure improvements.
- Working through the challenges of the RAMPup project and completing it.
- The remodel of the Sherwin

- When we became a Creative District, and subsequently accomplished our vision of reclaiming the original downtown, complete with paved streets, curb/gutter/sidewalk and \*amazing\* public art/amenities.
- When we built the stage, did the RAMP project, and generally began to embrace "smart growth," rather than "no growth" policies
- Before the 16 foot sidewalks, before Eagle Hill Ranch and Dennis Weaver developments
- When I first moved here in 2000 and saw that the town had a Master Plan that was excellent.
- When they paved the historical area
- When the pressure to bring large commercial buildings and huge subdivision land was overcome by citizens and a very smart town council and mayor.
- I am most proud of our community when we pull together to get projects, such as the street paving, done to let the world know Ridgway may be small but, unlike other small communities, it is certainly not dying.
- Development of downtown improvements with minimal disruption.

### NON-RESIDENT

- The revamping of the downtown. It is beautiful. Also, the great staff at Town Hall. Pam and Wanda are always extremely helpful and take time to personally call citizens for important matters. Also, all the great restaurants!
- The downtown eateries, park and walkability.
- Not sure about 'proud', but I appreciate the development of the highway and

downtown corridor, love our central park and library and value our community events like the concerts and the opportunities Weehawken, Sherbino, etc. bring.

- When we said "NO" to City Market building a store here.
- The town itself is charming
- The growth is amazing, planned and pretty, and diverse
- Now as it is with controlled, thought out growth with concern for locals and local business.

### Miscellaneous

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- When talking to others who don't live here but really want to.
- All year long
- Every day.
- Now
- Not sure
- daily
- When I talk to people on the Front Range (old friends and family).
- Many times
- ?
- All the time
- When outsiders compliment it.
- when sharing it with out of town family and friends
- Since I moved here.
- Right now. I'm very impressed that the town is undertaking this process and seeking input.
- When it finds a balance between old and new. It hasn't yet
- all the time!
- Always

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Proximity to so many things
- Always.
- All the time.
- Now
- All the time!
- Each day
- Back when it was known as a quiet cow town and everything closed up at 6 pm
- When tourist and locals are delighted to be in town.
- Always?
- always
- Now
- Always proud of it, just worry that it's turning into a Telluride overflow community.
- All of the time.
- When it is improving itself. Progressing.
- in the summer
- When I don't have to lock my car
- The small unique mountain town vibes
- most of the time

### Natural Environment

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Protection of the River Front.
- Demonstrating environmental and social responsibility.
- Care for the natural environment
- No pesticide use in our public spaces.
- Forward thinking environmental initiatives from the town and ROCC.
- When we supported the arts, when the town supports organic care for our parks, and planning that takes into account the people's voice, keeps the town "green", relaxed, dog-off leash areas, taking care

of our riverways, providing parks and trails, supporting music and farmers markets. That we have dirt bike hills bby the library for the kids, that we have supported a library and a "new" high school. What a great town!

- Night light pollution regulation.
- Keeping the dark skies
- When Ouray County banned open fires and fireworks during this summer
- When the town took the initiative to keep the parks pesticide free and changed the track cans to include recycling.
- Summer
- When it shows environmental foresight
- When the Uncompahgre River Protection Overlay District Ordinance passed because it proved that town leaders are willing to accept and deal with the frustration of the vocal minority to ensure the long-term protection of a valuable natural asset with very high economic value.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- A community that cares about the environment
- Environmentally
- When there is beautiful vegetation.
- When we offer a high quality of living and focus on protecting our environment

### **Parks, Trails, and Open Space**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Building of the RAT trails.
- Clean and mown public places.
- The RAT trails are an amazing contribution.

### **The Past**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- 15 years ago up until a few years ago
- 15 years ago
- 20 years ago
- 25 years ago when it was a friendly old west town
- About 10 years ago. I feel like it was just a better town back then.
- 1999
- When it was still about 300 residents who were decent hand working people.
- until a few years ago
- up until a few years ago
- When I moved here 15 years ago.
- When we moved here in 1988. Money was not that important and people worked hard because they chose to live here not because they could earn a high salary.
- Pre- "ramp up Ridgway"
- before I moved here 7 years ago

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Back when it was known as a quiet cow town and everything closed up at 6 pm
- one or two decades ago
- Oh-I imagine I loved it a lot better when I was a kid-but that was a LONG time ago.
- Thirty years ago
- Since 1952 up until 20 years ago.
- The way it was 20 years ago!
- 2013
- 10 years ago
- About 10 years ago when there were less outside (or newcomer) pressures to develop.

- When it was smaller, fewer crowds, fewer tourists. We came here over 20 years ago. Our children grew up here.

## **Q11: WHEN ARE YOU/WERE YOU MOST DISAPPOINTED IN OUR COMMUNITY?**

### **Arts/Culture**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- The many new benches which are terribly uncomfortable - and not made by a local artisan. The overabundance of new metal lights throughout town... too many.
- some of the new art. I would rather it be more western
- That the arts support is not more organized.
- When marijuana and modern art became our identifiers
- Permanent art installations are very pedestrian and not very sophisticated artistically.
- When something gets done that reminds me of the east coast rat race rather than its roots. The brightly colored metal benches in the town look like they belong outside an art museum in Manhattan. Do we really want to emulate styles and trends in major cities? How about drawing on the ranching and railroading history of the town and using materials related to that? Tourists certainly don't come here to see what they can see at home - keep Ridgway different.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- When they actively stopped promoting the creative community
- Bars etc shut down too early
- The contemporary art is horrible and detracts from our country ranch history
- When the "art" and terrible benches showed up in public areas.
- Horrible "big city" benches!

- the dollar store, the ultra-modern bright colored benches that are everywhere.
- I am disappointed currently with Ridgway's desire to 'lose' its past ranching and railroad history and move towards becoming just a creative district.
- Lucas Nelsen concert. Too many people in too small a space.
- That's easy question. When they allowed the benches along Sherman and wire works on bridge. None of these objects represent the Town. These are opportunist needing to make money and are in and out of town. Bench's should be in character of a ranching, mountain feel

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- They are trying to change it to a Telluride style. We get the people that can't make it there.
- Turning into a bit of a party scene with all the festivals and concerts. How does this influence our youth?
- Instances when interests of the wealthy or part time residents win out over the interests of full time residents and or the integrity of the small town or environment.
- Attitude/Service by local restaurants
- I do not have any major disappointments since we have only been here a few years. It is really frustrating to see so much dog poop and trash left around Dennis Weaver Park, which is connected to our neighborhood. It seems like visitors and some residents do not have much respect for the place we live. I am also surprised in seeing how much wealth surrounds this community but how the nonprofits here seem very under-resourced.
- It disappoints me when people promote their own policies or projects, or self-serving aspirations, at the expense of consideration for the needs or desires of the larger community.
- When an Israeli organization took over the community under the guise of the Christian Center and the disproportionate power enjoyed by its owner.
- infighting
- When I see our statistical participation in lacking. When we cannot even get people interested enough to run for Town Council or show an interest in our planning commission.
- I guess seeing a few Trump signs during election.
- Short sighted people with only their interests in mind.
- now... it's so busy and I don't feel like I don't understand where are these people are coming from or where they are living
- When people come out to complain but don't want to be a part of a solution.
- "When residents put their own self-interests before what is best for the community.
- Outspoken people on Ouray Ridgway Facebook site against immigrants
- I've always been happy with how our community has handled most things.
- When we descend into infighting over issues like dogs, speed limits, bear-proof trash cans, etc.
- When we are divided over politics
- it seems like people sure like to complain, but don't want to volunteer or put in the work to get things done for the greater good

- When people don't respect public spaces and leave a mess for someone else to clean up.
- It's disappointing when people have a closed door mentality of "now that I'm here, nobody else should get to come in."
- "douchebags moving in.
- Big city attitudes all of the sudden."
- The arguments over the streetscape. The arguments over the family dollar. The hypocrisy of some of our older, wealthier new arrivals.
- Every day it seems another trophy home goes up, every day it seems more people are driving brand new Porches', Mercedes, etc. What would Janis say?
- When people move here and then want to change the character of the community.
- When all voices are not heard.
- it's hard to pick a single incident. I feel disappointed by the accelerating drift toward "party time."
- Times of political discord
- Seemingly, when the town's governance, appears to move on issues without heeding the voices of the people.
- The fact that the people in charge do what is best for them but not the community
- When the community becomes divided over controversial issues - VIR, dogs on/off leash, River Overlay, etc.
- When there is community strife.
- Political division and wrangling.
- When we first purchased our property, I experienced from more than one longtime local, a vocal disdain for second home owners.
- When it appears money or investors start to overtake our historic community values

- When they don't show up to participate or when they can't have rational conversations.
- Unwelcoming.
- When locals are snobby to others from outside poorer communities like Norwood. Or when tourist come to town i.e. Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- A lot of the residents here are snobbish and it is hard to feel a part of the community
- When people try to be uninvolved. Involvement is key to the town's success and positive growth in the directions that will benefit our community.
- The "us" and "them" mentality creating separation in the two municipalities, and the County as a whole.
- When people move in from outside the area and then try to make it like where they came from.
- when I read some residents of Ridgway wanted to fine people who did not vote.
- rape culture.
- Want to impose personal values on everyone
- grumpiness of people who don't want to see change. lack of intellectualism.
- When it gets a little too liberal
- When people want to impose their ideals upon what is.
- Most disappointed when our HOA has such silly, selfish arguments.
- Complaining
- I'm not disappointment in the community. Ridgeway-like all of Colorado-is caving to the pressures of population, environmental stress and economically based changes. I think the

people who choose to live there are really trying to make a go of it in a responsible manner for the most part.

- When a well-meaning sculpture donation was rejected by voters with overly narrow and dogmatic views of what is right or wrong. Montrose gained 4 very expensive and beautiful sculptures. 2. When a proposed development of a great looking hot springs resort and hotel was delayed and delayed by the city until the recession hit and the developer left. Instead of seeing a great asset to the community, employing a lot of locals, as you drive in, we have a weed infested lot.
- When we thought that everyone in Ridgway need to move to the newest century... Not all members of the community wanted the newest century, THATS why they still farmed here!
- Abandoning ranching cowboy tradition and lifestyle.
- GOP'ers
- Stuck in mindset of dirt streets, dirty backwater town.
- when I see lack of services, poor customer service, lack of commitment to organizations or jobs, when people can't get along, the limited or inconvenient bathrooms in so many businesses
- When there is crime, intolerance if others or hate
- The community is going through some challenging growing pains and that is difficult to watch.
- When people most directly affected by growth have minimal voice
- When our elected officials, including the school board, fail to represent ALL of the residents.
- When people won't take the time to listen to other perspectives.

- Lots of political bickering, unable to get much done
- When we forget how to work together to solve problems and we get polarized.
- When people in leadership are dishonest.
- Inability to bring together the concerns of ranchers and town folks. The community feels divided along those lines. It keeps us from making progress on important issues.
- When people don't take care of their property and respect the property of others.
- When big city people move to Ridgway and try to change it to like it was where they came from and have no respect for traditional values held by the community.
- In the last year or two watching our community involvement and attendance of the Ridgway Fair and rodeo drastically decrease as well as a parent having to glean everything my kid is learning in our public schools and answer questions that should have never been discussed other than in home.
- When we negatively judge others of different values or beliefs.
- When people support and pay tribute to its history while embracing the future.
- The bickering and meanness at election times.
- Lack of acceptance
- When people complain about issues but won't get involved.
- When political divisiveness and greed take priority.
- When your neighbor sues you.

## Dogs/Leash Law

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- When I see people not picking up their trash or dog poop.
- When members do not respect it or its members by not picking up after their dogs (for which there is no excuse!) or allowing them to run uncontrolled and become a pest, driving too fast, throwing trash around, and complaining about changes to rules and regulations for which they failed to timely, if at all, be heard when there was an opportunity.
- dogs off leash pooping everywhere!
- Implementing ordinances that are difficult to enforce: dog leash laws, speed limit reduction.
- How the town deals with disruptive and aggressive dogs.
- When our community passed its leash law and banned dogs from events in the park.
- "Past sheriff lack of response to noise complaints regarding nuisance dogs. The amount of highway noise we experience in this valley makes Ridgway sound like a large city, not a small town---lots of noise pollution! (this is already a nuisance and will likely get worse.) In the past, the lack of a "real" downtown due to muddy/dusty streets, lack of stores. I'm disappointed in the lack of enough close-by hiking trails particularly for wintertime use (numerous friends concur on this point.) The river trail gets really old after a while when the high country is not open. What about open space around and within Ridgway?!! Lack of town government support for agencies that serve the poor."
- When the town started buying plastic bags for dog poop

- "Not dry sustainable Wasteful with plastic bags for dogs poop !!!"

### NON-RESIDENT

- When an off-leash dog raced towards me growling at the Mall road area east of 550 last year. Also, when residents do not pick up after their dog poop.

## Economic Development

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- "Past sheriff lack of response to noise complaints regarding nuisance dogs. The amount of highway noise we experience in this valley makes Ridgway sound like a large city, not a small town---lots of noise pollution! (this is already a nuisance and will likely get worse.) In the past, the lack of a "real" downtown due to muddy/dusty streets, lack of stores. I'm disappointed in the lack of enough close-by hiking trails particularly for wintertime use (numerous friends concur on this point.) The river trail gets really old after a while when the high country is not open. What about open space around and within Ridgway?!! Lack of town government support for agencies that serve the poor."
- When it's difficult to support your local grocery store based on cost.
- The lack of jobs and industry available locally.
- I wish there were more professional services.
- when tourism is promoted, we are losing what we were because of this
- When people take more than they need at the expense of others that are already struggling to make ends meet.
- it's expensive!
- When Family Dollar moved in.



- Not disappointed by anything really. My biggest complaint is that the Mountain Market's prices are appalling.
- When Dining out, trying to find places for friends to stay in town, when people are obnoxious
- lack of a good grocery store & too few restaurants

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- The new people moving in with no new significant job creation for people. ohh and a billion dollar AI grow house where delhwinnee use to be is what I'm referring to as a sellout community. Billionaires from NY who make a killing on weed but how much are they giving back in terms of work? community?
- When it closes its minds to more jobs and economic development opportunities.
- I started a business and found it extremely difficult to find educated and dedicated help.
- Job opportunities
- cost of groceries
- Years ago, when the town blocked a City Market going in on the east side of 550.
- When looking at real estate or seeking child care for my small children.
- Finding housing and good paying jobs
- When my business closed.
- allowing so much development to happen without thinking of families with children 0-5 who need support and childcare!
- When they let the Dollar Store get built.
- Mountain Market prices and products are embarrassing. I hate the look of Family Dollar, but am glad we have an alternative to paying absurd prices for spoiled goods.
- The convenience stores/gas stations are overpriced and hard to get in and out of. How about a nice Maverick like Delta?
- When urban stores want to open a branch here and we let them do it.
- Lack of resources, overpriced groceries,
- Much more expensive than I think it should be -- food, even local stuff -- the farmers mkt is ridiculously pricey
- when city Market was not allowed to do business here!
- When Subway went away.
- When it started to want to be Telluride and or became it's bedroom community.
- When a chain grocery store was not allowed a presence and when locals fought/resisted Family Dollar
- When my store closed due to lack of support.
- when it's Sunday in "off season" and the restaurants are closed
- Approval of all the dispensaries.
- "Seeing chain stores/restaurants in town. Family Dollar???"
- Montrose is close enough. Let's keep our town LOCAL"
- Groceries.
- A lot of businesses seem to cater to tourists more than locals (they are closed for 4-6 weeks during tourist off-season, meanwhile I still live here and need their services, OR they are too expensive for locals and seem to rely mostly on tourism to make money- such as the grocery store. I am very disappointed that Ridgway does not have an affordable grocery store! Locals avoid shopping at mountain market and have to drive 30 miles for food! (And it's not about the cost of grocery delivery in the mountains

because the Ouray store is significantly cheaper!)

- When we did not elect Amy McBride as County Commissioner. Also, when we allowed ourselves to be caught unprepared (with 25 years advance-notice) to keep Family Dollar from coming in.
- No affordable grocery stores.

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Redundant, but the elementary school!!
- Most disappointed with the failure of various alternative school and early education programs.
- School is allowed to teach what they want, don't care about parents thoughts. Town administration is somewhat similar
- When someone yelled at our school principal at a school board meeting for promoting understanding of gender diversity among students.
- School districts

### NON-RESIDENT

- I am disappointed in our public school - so many skilled, wonderful teachers but I don't feel like they are valued and I feel like administration has not fostered trust and the type of learning environment our community of caring parents and kids deserves. Public education can really define a community, and Ridgway Schools has not been doing what they should.
- ...when I heard about the transgender policies in the school, and when I realized there are 3 marijuana shops at the main town intersection.
- ESL program
- The school administration is horrible

- I was disappointed when some parents of children in the elementary school responded negatively to a program that encouraged sensitivity toward gender issues and overall diversity. Some parents pulled their children out of the school.
- I am upset at the people who pull their children out of school for the sake of small disagreements over school policy. I feel that people should be more supportive and patient with administrators who are doing the best they can.

## Governance/Law Enforcement

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I can't speak from primary knowledge, but I've heard second- and third-hand about a few interactions between residents and local law enforcement that were not handled well by law enforcement.
- Police seemingly bored, so tend to set people up for failure.
- now that Ridgway has begun to tax and spend us out of the area.
- When decisions are made, or actions taken, that appear to be politically based vs. what is in the best interest of the residents. Specific disappointments? 1) I was very disappointed at one of the town hall meetings when something could not be worked out for an older couple who had a B&B that they now were not going to be able to sell as a business (tied in with the VRBO guidelines). This was their retirement plan, the building would not be worth what the building/business were worth. The town cut their retirement off at the knees with their decision. They should have been grandfathered, it was an embarrassment.

2) With the process and end result in the hiring of our current Marshall.

- ...all of the recent sexual cases in the paper.
- The lack of respect for people seeking to have a town wide leash law and the entitlement people feel they have when they react rudely to requests to put dogs on leash. The fact that it was easier and took less time to put "idle free Ridgway" and lower the speed limit in town than the leash law, and the resistance to be a responsible dog owner and the resistance to a dog park.
- When I see neighborhoods and home owners squeezed out of things they have done for decades and the administration seemingly detached from care about the people and more concerned with the "process".
- The town government is becoming too large and doing too many things outside the scope of government responsibilities. Ridgway risks losing its unique character by trying to enhance and market that character.
- String of reported sexual assault crimes.
- Right now in a lot of ways. I don't like the direction that the town is changing. I don't appreciate the heavy focus on art and the use of public money for art when we also have issues with the cost of living, housing, etc
- sexual assaults
- At government meetings of how they want to shape and control things as they move forward, in the name of "upping your property values" I'm more concerned about actual values, my home is just that, not some play on the future, whatever that may be.

- Disappointed in BOCC and CR 5 discussions. Hopeful that public access will be maintained.
- we people get away with bad behavior/crime
- The town government made too many unenforceable rules, that do not trust their own citizens. Too many weed shops advertising on 550, concert series, were sending the wrong message especially to our students, and teenagers living in town!!!! And our schools.
- Some of the decisions in the last few years have felt pre-decided and the input from community a token process.
- When "how do we do this?" got replaced with "who do I call?"

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- On March 8, 2018 we were behind a Ouray County Sheriff vehicle with a bumper sticker that said, "In God We Trust." This is illegal and I sent a photo to the ACLU. I was very disappointed that Ouray County allows government vehicles to display religious preferences. Shame on Ouray County for breaking the law. License # GVT 489 JAN
- On March 8, 2018 at 550 and 62 we were behind a Ouray Sheriff vehicle with a bumper sticker that said "In God We Trust." This is illegal and I sent a picture to the ACLU. I was very disappointed in Ouray County for allowing this. License plate #GVT 489 JAN.
- When I saw a county Sheriff's car with a bumper sticker that said "In God We Trust."
- When we get petty and decide we need more rules to keep others in line.
- Some of the politics

- When rapists aren't prosecuted in a timely manner and keep their status as a high ranking community member.
- Hiring John Hatfield
- When it moves on issues without the input of its citizens.
- Fights between City of Ouray and Ice Park
- When they let local unqualified government official plan design or dictate things or events in town
- Poor leadership at BOCC.
- Lack of commitment to dark sky project, slow to address affordable housing, variances granted on view corridors. No funding for permanent food pantry building. No coordination of signage,

## Health & Well Being

### NON-RESIDENT

- As a mother of a 2.5 year old is not much the town offers. We don't have an emergency 24 hours. Lack of doctors.
- Too much growth, no real fitness center or community center. Montrose has just built a new aquatic and fitness center and also Delta has a nice facility with exercise equipment and pool.
- Far from most services

## Housing

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- "Ordinary people and families have been priced out of Ouray county and now the community is losing its character. The school does not hire qualified local teachers that are struggling to stay in the community and have to commute to other communities."
- No affordable housing available. What used to be rentable is now VRBO ETC. The high cost of food at our local Market

forces us to shop in Montrose rather than here,.

- While I am trying to find affordable housing to purchase.
- "The fact that there is no housing available to our workers, our teachers, our wonderful young families. The "air bnb stuff" needs to go...no short term rentals...Takes away from affordable rentals for those above.
- Seeing the lack of housing. We would like to see some of the strictly commercially zoned areas re-zoned to allow dwellings for employees (work-to-live).
- When I see people moving away because it is so expensive to live here
- When trying to find affordable living.
- The high cost of housing and lack of affordable housing for low wage hourly workers reduces the diversity of the community
- Cost of living, crazy high prices at the grocery store, unable to find housing or buy land or a home for a decent price.
- Now with the lack of affordable housing. Although I understand measures are being taken to address this issue.
- Cost of living/affordable housing/employment opportunities
- lack of realistic affordable housing
- Seeing the cost of housing and property sky rocket. Since then, many friends (ages 20s, 30s) have moved away because lack of housing opportunity. Now I'm meeting a lot of retired folks and 2nd home owners.
- When short term rentals were allowed. There is a disconnect with the community when people are allowed to abuse what we have.

- I don't care for the constant push to build more accessory dwellings. If we keep splitting up lots, eventually there won't be beautiful mountain town homes, there will be average townhomes.
- Too many second home owners building large houses and driving up house prices. the biggest thing that gets me is the empty houses/ neighborhood. Can we require people rent their houses if not their primary residence? Super large taxes for empty houses?
- Cost of living
- Rent.
- Most recently, as rent on average have risen astronomically, and housing is booming so much that people who have lived here long time may be pushed out.
- Can't seem to build housing for people who need it, retired people on a fixed income can't live here
- When it is not easy to start a business or find housing opportunities.
- I am most disappointed that the community has not moved faster on affordable housing.
- When we don't support are fixed income residents
- Challenging to find rentals (we've tried to rent for 4 months in the summer and have had a tough time). There isn't much available between long term and short term
- When the real estate prices have gotten beyond affordable for the average person
- Not enough is being done to speed up the work to get affordable housing.
- Many of the landowners ( building owners) are greedy. Sometimes when I hear the prices that people are charging for rentals, both living and commercial, I

am appalled. Ridgway is amazing. But, let's be real, if someone is making \$15/hr (which is about as high of a wage as most can make around here), and they are working 40 hours a week (most businesses are not able to employ full time/year round workers) then her entire first check and some of her second check is going to rent alone. That is insane to me. In order to attract young people, and to get the ones who grew up here to stay, they need to be able to pay for reasonable housing. We need young people!

- When I was trying to find affordable housing.
- When I see families who I know love this community moving away because they can't find affordable housing, when I hear friends speak in fear of what will happen the next time their rent goes up...
- "When "Ramp up Ridgway" begin. This signified the potential downfall of what drew me here and keeps me here. I am deeply saddened at the thought of turning Ridgway into a place where only people with lots of money can afford to own a house and live (which it has already become). If my family and I had not purchased a home when we did, we could not afford to buy or live here. When I dropped my kids off at the secondary school last year and for the first time, on the first day of school, saw a Mercedes, BMW, and Porsche drop kids off and pulled away from school. I had an instant sinking feeling in my gut. Shit.... we are officially screwed"

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Housing has been challenging. Short term rentals have removed longer term housing prospects.
- Affordable housing. I'm tired of people complaining that we don't have affordable

housing and the town does NOTHING to change it. Like possibly changing the town rules & regulations to permit tiny homes or a tiny home development within the town limits. Year after year, this topic comes up and NOTHING is done to address it.

- Now, it is already too expensive and the building codes are ridiculous. Where can you have a tiny house ? I applied for the new building project housing but I made \$5000 too much in income. The income limit was ridiculously low.
- Renting and working a full-time job in Ridgway I am not supportive of the short-term rental trend. If we want a community where people can live, work, raise a family and support their communities full time it should be common sense that those who give life to the community be able to find housing here.
- The lack of affordable housing where it is possible to find rent levels or housing opportunities that match residents' abilities to work full-time in the community at lower-paying service jobs.
- The crazy inflation of housing prices has made me super disappointed in our community. It is making it so locals cannot live here anymore. I thought I would be able to buy a house here and now I don't think that will ever happen. Also, it is impossible to find somewhere to rent that is affordable. It makes me sad to see my friends and family have to move to other areas because they can't find homes here anymore.
- The towns' pursuit of affordable and artist housing options while simultaneously adding costly layers of building restrictions to in-town property.
- "The towns insistence in advertising Ridgway and entering into "best of" contests.
- Ridgway is on the map. It is growing. We don't need the title of "best Main Street" to draw retirees here.
- The cost of living is skyrocketing and the town needs to make this a priority before Ridgway loses its character. Second home owners and retirees are going to change the heart and soul of Ridgway. We need "real" people with jobs and families living here. "
- How expensive the housing is...
- I'm saddened and fearful of the rising cost of housing and what that means to the future diversity of our community.
- Affordable housing, for people that want to live and work on the area. I own a home, but others who want the same opportunity to raise their kids should have affordable housing
- Too much concern about affordable housing. People should live where they can afford to live. The problem is failure to address public transportation.
- Some trashy homes along the highway close to town
- That Ridgway STILL has not figured out the affordable housing problem. All there is talk, but absolutely no action. That has to change.
- The housing market is ridiculous
- Affordable housing not available.

## Infrastructure and Public Services

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- When we "Ramped up Ridgway" and sold out to the blind belief that more money

and "upscale" facade was really in our best interest.

- I was most disappointed in our community when we decided to pave our down town streets which I feel was a start to urbanizing our rural community.
- Inability to get faster internet
- loss of character in the most recent street and street scape design-----attitude toward affordable housing(let them live in Montrose)
- The new traffic regulations and stop signs
- The new stop signs on Chipeta Dr. by Sabeta Dr. They are ridiculous.
- The lack of parking with the streetscape project.
- We are a little concerned with the paving project of Ridgway on the side streets (Sherman made sense to keep cars moving). Maintaining the older character of Ridgway is important to us.
- The fact that they can't seem to find a way to pave Amelia and the fact that people are allowed to trash out their residence making Ridgway appear to be a dump!
- When Town asphalted the roads in the downtown business streets and didn't do something besides asphalt and made Ridgway just another town to pass through.
- When they replaced all the street signs and then added propane tank seating that is uncomfortable to sit on. The spending doesn't seem to support our ranching and rural background.
- When the Town of Ridgway has MANDATORY fees for water, trash, recycle, and now trash cans! Stop putting your mandatory fees on us and allow us to choose if we want trash service or not - don't choose for us! Also,

water usage should be billed, not a set fee! Ridgway is becoming too controlling and dishonest!

- Streetscape.
- The way the downtown section has been Californicated with all the concrete and curbs.
- The vast resources put into the recent road and sidewalk, etc. project, instead of energy efficiency or affordable housing.
- Recently...Requiring all town citizens purchase bear proof container. Only the people who leave their trash out should be required. While I absolutely love our town employees, I think either they are overworked and/ or need more training? There are rules and regulations that are unclear, even when I talk directly to them I often get different answers. For example, in regards, to inspections, short-term rental regulations, lot size, etc.
- When the town decided to spend money on plastic bag that are not biodegradable for people to put their dog poop in!!!
- New stop signs and speed traps in our housing areas. (Are they really helpful?) Difficulty in protecting our beautiful location during visual impact proceedings. Lack of high speed internet.
- Anytime the discussion to increase the number of paved roads comes up.
- When street sweeping was NOT done for many months the first summer after ramp was done. Felt like we did not take pride, did not take care of what we built.
- When they paved the streets and put up a large quantity of signage to cater to tourists and people with suburban points of view with hopes of raising property values.
- three lane through town

- putting too much money into downtown and having the improvements falling apart before the first snowfall
- The stupid popularity contest that is the People of Ridgway Calendar, some of the aspects of the beautification project (the trees in the middle of narrow sidewalks), the "affordability" of the proposed housing developments (Alpen Glow Co-housing), and the parking situation on South Cora Street by Taco del Gnar for residents living there is HORRIFIC!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- When the town government took too long to decide on bear proof trash cans. Also, in general, too many rules and no enforcement.
- When they complain about parking
- Residents and businesses complaining about having to shovel their new sidewalks.
- When I see litter.
- Sorry but all the paved streets were not my idea of better.
- Visual impact and County Road 1 people acting hostile to those who supported those initiatives.
- Ramp up. I loved the idea of updating some infrastructure, but the town went overboard. You could land a 747 on the road through the downtown now! I've seen major throughways in large cities that are smaller than the section of 62 that runs through town. Ridgway lost its cozy character by cutting such a massive highway through its center. Also, the lighting fixtures. Really? We need that many lights at night? Haha. The town shuts down by 7:00, but yet it's lit up like an airport runway all night long. Between the new enormously wide road and all the lightening I tell people the mayor and planning board got confused and built the Ridgway Airport by mistake. I think the people behind the ramp up got a little ahead of themselves. Typical small town insecurity.
- Really not much maybe that the sewer system has open ponds and is now in the middle of Town. Ridgway should really start looking at a new location for the sewer services of its Town. This will not happen overnight so why not start now?
- after streetscape upgrades, lots of useless items around the down roads paving is now bad on 62
- Most disappointed with new paved roads and contemporary park benches and sculptures.
- The new police enforcement officer in Ridgway is way out of line. Since he has come on board he is pulling over bicycles for not stopping at stop signs, giving out way too many tickets. He's out of control IMO. The new stop sign at Sabeta Dr & Chipeta Dr on the west side is a ridiculous waste of time and not at all needed. Please consider getting rid of it.
- Poor roads on Log Hill
- When gravel roads were not properly maintained for decades.
- Lack of high speed internet, lack of public transportation options - especially to the airport, can't get CR 1 paved, politics, no boat rentals at Ridgway State Park anymore
- I think some of our roadway infrastructure is way underfunded. There are certain roads that cannot sustain existing, let alone any additional traffic growth, in the current condition they're in.
- when a stupid stop sign was erected in Solar Ranch and an overzealous deputy has nothing better to do than give tickets



there ; also when affordable housing discussions cause NIMBY syndrome to rear its ugly head

- When the Ouray pool was "improved" and they made more problems than the old pool has. I include the Ouray pool, because as a Ridgway resident, I used to adore visiting it and swimming there. Now I swim in Montrose
- Wish we had pickleball courts like most progressive towns, health care costs are unaffordable
- When it paves paradise!
- excessive improvements, 15 mph speed limit, some of the improvements to downtown were over the top
- When it turned down funds for paved roads from Ralph Lauren, when it gave Victoria Hearst grief for building and donating to the city the Fairgrounds facilities.

## Land Use & Built Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Lack of enforcement of the municipal code in regards to land use.
- Recently some of the decisions on housing development have not appeared to be as well planned - but more rushed in an effort to "fix" the housing problem.
- Perhaps in addressing problems that arise when the lines between commercial and residential clash, such as parking issues and noise level control.
- No recent actions have disappointed. It would be nice if some type of residential building restrictions were put in place (if they aren't already) for the area near the main business district (Clinton/Cora) to improve the quality of housing in the area.

- Lack of active code enforcement, more specifically dealing with light and noise
- I don't want to see too much growth, filling our lands w houses n manmade structures
- "Poorly written architectural guidelines which have never been dealt with, ie minimum 3:12 roof pitch. Recent approach to the Town Engineer Role: Now that we have more infrastructure than ever, a competent Town Engineer is more necessary than ever. Town engineering review should be provided by the Town. Growth and development will be stifled by this change. When Ridgway did NOT deal with street sweeping of their beautiful new RAMP project. Summer of 2018 has bike paths, sidewalks, bridge, etc. covered with dirt and gravel. The dirt makes the new RAMP project look bad in general, and hard to use for bikes, skateboards, wheelchairs, etc.
- Maintaining a local feel is difficult and the town struggles to do so, while simultaneously talking about added high density housing in the middle of town and even massive low income housing projects on the edge of town.
- when growth was encouraged
- When we pass code changes to encourage unregulated growth and development that lines the pockets of a few at the expense of the community at large.
- When land separate from the town was annexed and subdivided.
- Filling the beautiful Town park with structures; parking; and LARGE buildings. It was our greatest asset
- When building fees, rules and regulations increased making it more expensive and difficult to build in Ridgway.

- The idea of making baseball field into housing
- I feel sad when open spaces are shut down because future development is planned and then there's no development and no access for a long time (thinking of that great hill just east of the high school). Also when long-term folks get pushed out by the cost of living.
- When they had a building codes enforcer here who didn't really know what he was doing other than pissing off our great working contractors.
- That nothing is done to take care of some "junk" on properties: I.e. 861 Sherman street, and mobile home trashed on 526 hyde street. No education or enforcement of leash laws. People are inconsiderate in not having a leash and not cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs charge at you if you are trying to go for a walk anywhere in town.
- Need to clean up city lots with old mobile homes, and crap stored all over the property
- No way to regulate the residential areas when it comes to cars and trailers parked on the street. Also no apparent way to regulate debris and trash in yards, vacant building and mobile homes deteriorating. Makes for a slopping looking town with no obvious zoning.
- Seems like there's sometimes a focus on keeping it a "small town" but really that's just forcing the price up and making it a town for the wealthy
- When I see new businesses come in that create a lot of light pollution or noise pollution (like the Full Tilt Saloon with a band blasting music out several nights this summer from 7 pm until past 10 pm, and heard loudly 1/4 mile away. Also when we continue to have trucks

routinely doing loud and sustained Jake Braking coming southbound into town.

- When local businesses were resistant to investing in community development.
- "So many shooting range!!!
- Shooting should not be allowed during a drought!!!"
- When ugly back lit real estate signs Go up
- Now with over development.
- feel disconnected to Ridgway and how it is changing and growing. does not feel like a small town anymore. All the pot shops.
- Too influenced by development
- When there is such disagreement about how the town should grow.
- recently when putting development projects ahead of concern for residential areas and residents home and lifestyle

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- not listening to the concerns of residents living near the areas of commercial growth
- When the city planners at a 'hearing' a few months ago for review of a rich guys 'request for exception' on his mega barn blocking view on lower Log Hill road. It seemed clear to me that certain 'planners' had been bought and paid for. They were caught, so they finally decided to enforce the existing codes. That may be how DC works, but it would be a shame to see 'money' rule here.
- When the Town and County haven't enforced the Codes we've passed to protect our area from the negative effects of development.
- Not well thought out development.
- "The BOCC allowed a very tall obtrusive tower

- on Loghill right in a residential neighborhood and in a prime visual impact location in violation of town and county codes and over strenuous objections of the residents, especially those most directly affected and the local ACC."
- Dealing with the town planning department
- Not excited about certain kinds of development, including large mutliplexes. Upset over the privatized use of Rt 5 during the winter months. Wish the ramp-up hadn't made such a freeway out of the main drag. Would like to see this cozied up a bit with trees/planters in the median. I don't like that...has an office with no fewer than 12 signs (excessive!) on the main drag designating her real estate company. This makes our town feel like a boom town with no respect for slow-growth.
- When the visual impact regulations did not get expanded to protect some of the key areas in the county.
- When the city council seems blind and bent on growth as the highest good and fails to conserve the small close community.
- Town Council decisions on Hotel/ development projects & River corridor
- Permitting sprawl outside downtown area
- The manner in which the River Corridor District was handled with respect to the property owners.
- When we focus on growth over quality
- When we allow run down homes with junk in the yard
- Too much growth, expensive, almost as bad as Telluride.
- It would be nice to see some of the unkept properties improved and cleaned up.
- When proposed changes Don't take into account outlying areas and lifestyles
- When streets were paved and when development seems to be uncontrolled.
- The push for Space to Create is too big a footprint. It will cause the loss of a parking lot at Clinton & N. Laura Street. No thought has gone into the parking problem. This situation is forcing commercial parking & activity into residential zones, which sets a bad precedent for Ridgway & is out of character for Ridgway. It is also against the wishes of neighbors. The separation of Business & Residential zones must be emphasized and maintained. Currently there is no "effective transition" (Ridgway Municipal Code) between the Historical Residential Neighborhoods & the nearby Historical Business Neighborhoods. Finally, although the street improvements with sidewalks and landscaping have beautied Ridgway it has contributed to added Usenet water (which is in a drought situation). If the current residents are faced with only limited water usage for their gardens and homes, what is the thinking behind new residential/business growth requiring more water availability? This part of Planning does not even seem to be important ir considered. Growth for growth sake ISN'T the answer.
- When we aren't thoughtful in our decisions to grow the community

## Marijuana/Drugs

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- The number of signs now advertising marijuana -- they are now the "Welcome to Ridgway"
- I am most disappointed by the weed shops that line the streets where you enter our community. I can't believe the town keeps approving them. Not everyone supports it and I feel it makes people that don't support it think that we are a joke. I am also disappointed that a family with two working parents cannot afford to buy a house here, unless they have an inheritance or a fortune made somewhere else.
- I'm disappointed in the way the town seems to support and embrace the drug culture.
- Amount of pot and skunk weed smelling up this town.
- When pot shops became our gateway and railroad tourist attractions are easier to build than housing with no public process.
- When all the marijuana dispensaries/growing facilities were approved.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Drug culture
- POT SHOPS!!! Looks terrible to see that when you first come into town. We worry about our children being exposed to the buyers and drivers who come here for their "high".
- When they allowed marijuana shops on every corner.
- The marijuana is insane!
- "When the growth and sale of cannabis was approved.

- The price gouging by restaurants and merchants."
- To watch three marijuana dispensaries arrive and be the first thing you see coming into town from the north.
- When it became flooded with pot shops
- Pot stores everywhere

## Miscellaneous

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Now
- Now.
- now
- 99% of the time
- Recently, things are changing.
- Now
- School trying to be Telluride. Just stop.
- "has not occurred yet It's being "discovered".
- When Ridgway USA became part of town
- now
- The stupid popularity contest that is the People of Ridgway Calendar, some of the aspects of the beautification project (the trees in the middle of narrow sidewalks), the "affordability" of the proposed housing developments (Alpen Glow Co-housing), and the parking situation on South Cora Street by Taco del Gnar for residents living there is HORRIFIC!

### NON-RESIDENT

- last decade
- The last ten years
- The past 20 years, especially the past 10 years.
- When I observe recent changes !
- 2018

- When it is referred to as Pebble, the little Boulder
- Lack of foresight.
- When too many tourist are in town that do not share same values as locals.

## Natural Environment / Sustainability

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- When the whole solar panel farm thing fell through. I think it's a good idea to have local renewable energy sources.
- When the division of wildlife failed to handle the bear problem within the city limits.
- Water restriction regulations are uninformed
- When the solar farm was veto'ed.
- the continuing use of mag chloride
- The condition of the Uncompahgre river above town, especially through the Orvis property. Dumping trash and road waste in the river isn't okay.
- When the solar farm received static and the 150% increase in garbage/recycle/water/sewer cost in 5 years.
- When the Town and our particular HOA determined that prairie dogs are a "nuisance" and "mitigated" them.
- Not cleaning up after special events
- Many town council actions, lack of interest in improving the available water supply while pushing for growth
- When people cut down trees. We just don't have any to spare.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Some residents' lack of sympathy for noise (barking dogs) and light (exterior floods) pollution.

- need to be supported by more sustainable energy such as solar and wind power. we are small enough to do that.
- The quarreling over protecting the river corridor
- Protecting the land specifically Blue Lakes area
- It does chink the chain a bit that we continue to slice and dice parcels county wide for commercial gain. While everyone should have the opportunity to live here we should try to maintain the environment that was intended.
- When there is no vegetation and it is very dry.
- During the discussions last year about the river overlay district ordinance--when people were not listening to each other and not choosing to strongly protect our river.
- Usage of plastic, no recycling for paper, plastic, glass in town and park
- That the above mentioned efforts to reduce single use plastics has not been adopted by the whole town as a worthy pursuit in preserving the natural beauty, not just of our town but of our world.

## None

### RESIDENT

- Not been disappointed yet
- never
- Has not happened yet!
- Ridgway has yet to disappoint me.
- n/a
- N/A
- Can't think of any....
- I haven't lived here long enough to say...
- Not yet, but fearful it is coming
- Never!

- Not sure
- Nothing major comes to mind.
- Hardly any disappointments.
- That hasn't happened yet...
- didn't happen yet.....I have only lived here 3 years
- I haven't been disappointed yet.
- No occasion at this point.
- Not been disappointed yet

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- I haven't been disappointed
- NA
- I haven't been disappointed yet.
- I'm not
- Just not disappointed
- Not.
- Haven't felt that way yet.
- not sure!
- I can't think of time that I have been disappointed. I am glad that this master plan is in action as we are at a junction in the size and spirit of the place.
- haven't been yet
- All y'all have done rather well so far but just wait...
- Not being local (yet), I will withhold any comments until we become full time.
- Nothing, really.
- I can't think of anything here.
- Never
- haven't been
- Never
- Don't remember being "most" disappointed.

## **Parks, Trails, and Open Space**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- getting kicked off of private land, decreased recreational opportunities when you thought it was public land.
- The squashing of Bald Mountain bike trails. Anytime Kari Wage is brought up.
- "Past sheriff lack of response to noise complaints regarding nuisance dogs. The amount of highway noise we experience in this valley makes Ridgway sound like a large city, not a small town---lots of noise pollution! (this is already a nuisance and will likely get worse.) In the past, the lack of a "real" downtown due to muddy/dusty streets, lack of stores. I'm disappointed in the lack of enough close-by hiking trails particularly for wintertime use (numerous friends concur on this point.) The river trail gets really old after a while when the high country is not open. What about open space around and within Ridgway?! Lack of town government support for agencies that serve the poor."

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Over the years I have been disappointed at the development of the River corridor at Rollins Park. I know the river has been worked on several times and this is disappointing. The upper water feature, rapid, is unsafe to boat, kayak or swim in at medium or high water. I would have loved to see Ridgway take their time and spend their money wisely and create something more user and nature friendly like Montrose did.

## **Transportation**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- "Past sheriff lack of response to noise complaints regarding nuisance dogs. The

amount of highway noise we experience in this valley makes Ridgway sound like a large city, not a small town---lots of noise pollution! (this is already a nuisance and will likely get worse.) In the past, the lack of a “real” downtown due to muddy/dusty streets, lack of stores. I'm disappointed in the lack of enough close-by hiking trails particularly for wintertime use (numerous friends concur on this point.) The river trail gets really old after a while when the high country is not open. What about open space around and within Ridgway?!! Lack of town government support for agencies that serve the poor."

- When developers come in and threaten the town if they don't get their way. When all the people with out of state plates drive too fast, park in all the wrong places (bike lanes) and don't understand that they are supposed to WALK around town.
- people speeding on Amelia St
- Traffic and speed limit violations (which drivers continuously get away with).
- Crazy patrolling and speed limit in small neighborhoods including stop signs.
- Unnecessary laws like the 15mph speed limit.
- In the decision to continue having a state highway cut through the middle of town instead of bypassing beautiful downtown Ridgway. Traffic is becoming denser and more dangerous.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Streetscape has been disappointing, the flow of town is different now and the highway is more dangerous. really changed the small town feel.
- Inability to improve county roads
- Speed limit reduction

- Kinda disappointed with the Galloping goose track that's known as the train to nowhere. Why not use it as a shuttle around the town and reduce the traffic?
- After another Hwy Vehicle accident

## Q12: WHAT DO YOU HOPE RIDGWAY WILL BE LIKE IN 20 YEARS?

### None

#### NON-RESIDENT

- have no idea
- No hopes, I don't have a say it What Ridgway does.
- I have no hopes for Ridgway. It will do what it wants to do. I do not have a say, I live in the county.
- N/A won't be alive by then
- N/A I will dead by then
- Won't be alive in 20 so I don't care

### Other

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I "hope" Ridgway will be less than 2,000 people. Will have an intact ranching community. Will allow working people to afford a home here, not just a few affordable housing units to look like we are catering to the lower wage earning people. That we will have liberals, conservatives, independents, middle income, lower income, white, brown, and black people. I want down to earth diversity as a realistic possibility.
- still small town, close knit community that welcomes all, surrounded by working ranches and farms
- Just a little larger but still retaining a small town feeling.
- Peaceful, Quiet
- Quiet. Peaceful. Rural
- Growth will slow down, affordable housing will be available so Ridgway doesn't look like another generic

mountain town accessible only to the wealthy.

- Although I realize that change is inevitable, I hope that Ridgway maintains its' small town feel and does not become so overdeveloped, urbanized and expensive that we force those that have lived here for many years to leave.
- Progressive small town focused on the outside...
- A fun culturally well-developed self-sustaining community that strives for excellence.
- I'm sure Ridgway will grow, but I hope it never loses its "live and let live" spirit. I hope we'll be able to reach decisions through broad consensus, and avoid neighbor-on-neighbor in-fighting. I want Ridgway to plan well for how growth will impact residents and the environment, and that we won't trade short-term or material gain for long-term change of the unique nature of the town, the people, and the environment.
- I really don't care because it has already changed a lot.
- Similar character, a little larger, but not sprawled around the valley in a haphazard way
- "hip place but remains affordable to teachers and those that don't make top \$\$\$. Enable elderly to remain in their homes and age. Be able to stay here as opposed to having to move away. "
- Growing community where we don't have to drive 30 plus miles to a super market to get great prices for our groceries.
- I hope Ridgway will continue to grow with improved amenities (community center and better grocery store top of the list). Would really like to see the continued



development of multi-use trails in the Cimmaron and Sneffles Ranges.

- A community like it is now of involved residents with people who care about each other and work well together to make it home and the best place to live for all of us.
- basically the same in character, just reasonably larger---up to 50% and more full time residents
- I really hope it won't get too much bigger or too much more expensive (though I think this is a fantasy on my part). If I didn't own a house now that was purchased in 2002 we would not be able to afford living here since we also work here (unlike many "wealthier" Ridgway inhabitants).
- Similar to Carbondale, with a thriving economy, great schools and the same good neighborly atmosphere as today!
- "A caring, responsible community not much larger than it is presently.
- Still small with caring community and being more self sustainable and less dependent on tourism
- It will still have a small town atmosphere with limited traffic and realize bigger is not always better.
- more diversified, real fiber or whatever is state of the art internet connections, affordable housing, a more diversified building code that allows for more, different building types and designs (within the UBC regs), no shopping center, no box stores, more carpenters and trades people living around the corner and down the block, another "good" bar in a location that suits that type of business
- I hope Ridgway will develop into a community where people have more pride in their home sites.
- A bit more cleaned up in the residential areas. 1,500 residents of retirees and young families.
- Small. Progressive in a leader type of way in how the town and residents use natural resources and live together with and in support of nature and wildlife.
- A community of diverse people with diverse lifestyles, pursuits, and interests.
- Dynamic community that has a strong enough economy to support local in living here while still maintaining a healthy environment and more remote mountain feel
- Similar but leading in smart housing options for the community.
- A ski town suburb with more jobs and opportunities than currently.
- I would hope it would be somewhere where young professionals and business owners could thrive in
- Very similar, but with less second home ownership, VRBO type situation, giving more opportunity to rent a place to live. More employers other than food and beverage industry.
- A larger community that working people can afford to live in
- An affordable, charming, real, small mountain town. One that cares about its least citizen as much as it does its most high profile citizen. One that places high value on the environment, recreational and work opportunities, and, most importantly, puts it's people above all else.
- Public transit to Montrose, Ouray, etc... more solar on homes and businesses, dog park where they can play off leash, more

entertainment venues for kids and adults... affordable grocery store and health foods. Be at the forefront of sustainability with community garden, composting, and environmental stewardship. Not a retirement town for wealthy, but vibrant with big thinkers. Nice single family affordable housing.... not apartments/condos. Quality of life maintained by not over populating and enforcing litter/car idling regulations.

- "I hope it grows intelligently. Affordable housing for folks.
- Mixture of incomes and talents. More business opportunities with realistic rents. "
- More sustainable and no more plastic bags allowed
- Similar to what it is now with total renewable energy.
- Great Farm to Table restaurants. Safe and friendly for our children. Co-housing, especially for our elderly folks. Pretty. Friendly. Venues opened later than 9pm. Walking/biking friendly. Cafe's. Music. Cultural.
- I hope that my employees will be able to find an affordable place to live.
- That it still remains a small town community, even though growth is inevitable. I hope families can continue to live here.
- "Still centered around the historic core of town, and that areas already in the master plan as future development are filled up before expanding further . There are many many acres already included in the current master plan!
- Also: that affordable housing plans are required and part of any future development."
- I hope that it will keep its small town atmosphere, and that we will find a way to offset the rising costs that are plaguing our housing situation. I would like to see people from every economic and any ethnic group able to live in our town and find work.
- Similar, and yet capable to adapting to growth and changes. I also hope it will be a zero carbon footprint town.
- Vibrant
- I hope it remains a welcoming community.
- I will probably move by then because it is getting too busy for me
- I hope it will still be a small town, progressive, caring about the environment and the arts, well maintained parks, infrastructure, businesses and residence and friendly people.
- That's a great question. I love it right now!! I know it will grow and I love it how it is right now!!
- Thriving town with a good internal economic base
- I hope it retains its character, grows with elegance.
- More diverse with affordable housing
- Slow, continued growth but still chill and affordable with more of a Main Street, more culture and arts and programs for children.
- The same but with affordable housing
- I admit I am a dreamer, and I hope that the changes to Ridgway will be minimal, except for more parks, especially east of Hwy 550, and more protection for our beautiful river corridor.
- "Growth is of course OK and expected
- Hope it will continue to thrive as an art community. Hope Ridgway can continue

- to lead in many ways --affordable housing one of the most important"
- A small community that people like to visit!
  - Gone!
  - Slightly bigger but with the same community spirit and more housing options.
  - I don't have many "hopes" or "fears" for Ridgway
  - Although population growth is unavoidable, I hope to see Ridgway maintain its present character of a small creative and progressive community of engaged citizens.
  - A diverse community in terms of culture, race, financial status that has access to adequate water, job opportunities, childcare and educational opportunities, reasonable access to healthcare and elderly care.
  - Not too big, which will be hard to avoid? Still have a small town feel. Create a bypass route for the highway.
  - More fixed up. Less trailers and falling down structures.
  - inexpensive
  - Still down to earth and connected
  - Not the same, I am looking for phases growth. I don't want folks in charge to change it to where they come from so they fell comfortable.
  - Well executed growth that allows for opportunities
  - We hope Ridgway does not cave into big money trying to sell real estate and developments and attract a whole new type of people to our town. Once they get a foot hold, they will then dictate town policy and the character of Ridgway is lost.
  - "A great grocery store, light traffic, more consistent and year round dining options
  - The culture and energy of Telluride without the real estate greed.
  - Similar with a decent cost of living.
  - A more upscale community. Rid the trash around homes that takes value away, better town landscaping and paved streets to keep the dust down.
  - smart growth, keeping high density housing in areas that are already established, and not putting it next to single family housing. keeping parks and areas for kids to play, keep investing in school and affordable housing, the arts, the riverfront. listening to the community.
  - Vibrant, larger and more density in the Town core.
  - A place working people can afford.
  - More diverse, more affordable
  - Peaceful active vibrant and still small
  - More solar, transit system, and better collaboration/connection with Ouray.
  - A small town that provides a stable community for people who want to permanently live in the area. A small town that preserves: it's agricultural status, it's open spaces, strong community vibe, growth within reason and one of the few International Dark Sky designated towns in Colorado.
  - An even tighter community of farmers, creatives, and mountain people. Affordable to live and thrive. Not commercialized and not a community of second homes. I hope the spirit we have now remains intact.
  - I hope to have a leash law and more paths beside the river. I hope to have a bike lane to connect Ridgway to Ouray and Montrose. I hope that Mountain

Market offers more options at competitive prices. I hope we maintain our open spaces for wildlife habitat and protect them from off leash dogs. Maintain the dark sky ordinance. Strive for energy efficiency and clean air, get people away from wood fires in town.

- Ridgway is still a place for EVERYONE - from ranchers to small businesses to creatives to families. That we find a way to protect and honor the community that shapes the best aspects of Ridgway. We are still surrounded by open space and trails. Focus on dense housing and not building out.
- growth is inevitable and Ridgway needs to allow reasonable and well planned growth. It also needs to encourage some basic "services" so that residents don't have to drive to Montrose to buy groceries. (Mountain market pricing is price gauging and offensive.)
- "Off the grid" - powered 100% by renewable electrical energy. Night skies and visual corridors remain protected. Smart development (and not too much). Great schools.
- Thriving community of people who love outdoor activities and are able to work remotely. Good infrastructure and high speed internet.
- A quite community free from the sound of gun shooting
- Small, clean, friendly, lots of open space in and around town remaining. Roads unpaved except for the ones that have been. Affordable housing that does not clog up the open space in town and is out of town where the soil is more marginalized. We need green open space, trees and open horizons in town. Although I want affordable housing, I think it should be done on the fringes.

NOT in the middle of town in places like the pump track behind the library or the baseball field by the old school house.

- It would be great if folks with strong family values would feel welcome and support our school and cultivate a strong sense of community for all ages.
- I hope that it is still a place where we don't have to lock our doors but that has more opportunities for employment, early childhood education, restaurants and other amenities that make a community sustainable.
- Ridgway can be an example for other small communities how to be a art/creative district with a thriving Co-housing community, a great school, a safe place to grow up and grow old, great concerts and art, lots of recreational opportunities from hiking, to cross country skiing, from Tennis to Pickleball, Yoga, swimming, a healing place.
- I'm not all that excited to see Ridgway grow in population because I love the small community (know your neighbors) feel. However I would love to see Ridgway be a beautiful community with more shops and restaurants, paved streets, big trees and a well-rounded menu of outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Continuing to see young people move here and raise families. The park full of kids, people on bikes, commerce, community events. Not full of millionaires. Plenty of open space, perhaps more open space land purchases, ball fields, tennis courts.
- Just like it is now but with a thriving arts and dining district that has a walking corridor for bikes and pedestrians with no cars.

- I hope it stays quirky and has a thriving downtown, mature trees, living wage jobs for people of all ages.
- As small feeling community with a huge focus on the creative arts and affordable housing
- A small mountain town with a lot of charm and still the great community
- More vibrant and diverse while retaining its small-town character.
- Much as it is today but better, with more economic opportunity so residents can work here instead of having to commute to Montrose or Telluride, and more affordable housing so we don't become like a Telluride. I don't mind the inevitable growth as long as it is planned and managed consistent with our vision and our logo to "Think Outside." That means I want to see amenities that encourage and protect such lifestyle, such as walking paths, bike lanes, electric car charging stations, bike rental stands a la Denver, parks and common areas for picnicking and camping, mountain bike trails, and river access to recreational activities. I want it to continue to grow as a center of diversity and creativity that attracts the best and brightest who either come here to live and work or just visit. I want our town to be a perfect place to telecommute with a high-speed fiber optic system, which will reduce cars on the road for commuting and provide more opportunities for work, education, internet creativity, and entertainment. I also hope that it will become a leading example of environmental-friendliness through use of renewable energy, recycling, and reduction of the human footprint on our planet.
- Continue to grow and evolve in a way that encourages more jobs and the arts while also preserving the small town community feel.
- I hope Ridgway will still embrace its creativity and outdoor recreation.
- I hope we will stay as small as possible, as open minded as possible, and as eco as possible.
- A place with more affordable housing, and the same character it has now.
- I hope the community will continue to attract a large number of creative types with open minds who will want to work together to continue striving to make this a better home for all of us.
- I hope Ridgway will continue to keep open spaces, moderate growth, and keep up with changing economic needs, so people can live work, and play here.
- A bit more blue-collar than it is currently. More affordable. Full of people who live AND work within the county.
- Sustainable businesses because people live here and work/shop here.
- That we will not become a high income only place, that there will be a way for young and lower income people to live here, without urban sprawl.. I think any and all subdivision and construction should be required to offer low income options.
- Developed from the inside out.
- I hope the economy will continue to be mixed, and that more opportunities emerge for small business.
- A place that is safe for kids, small town vibe with character, not too much housing overgrowth
- Small and friendly
- More places to live

- A bit bigger, perhaps with cheaper groceries :-)
- Same feel but upgraded with regards to internet, pavement (mud does get old) and more unique restaurants.
- Frankly, I know exactly what it will be, we moved here from another Colorado town that we lived in for 16 years to get the heck away from that nonsense , your Ridgway is on the exact same trajectory
- great support town for our high dollar mountain communities.
- Some form of affordable housing and some form of taxi-type service for those unable to drive.
- More housing and businesses.
- I'd like to see it retain its small town, family-friendly, rural nature with progressive moves to increase diversity. Art and artist destination would be cool. I like how the Crested Butte community comes together often for parties, festivals, celebrations, etc. The whole town comes out, dressed in costumes and has a great time.
- a nice place to live, centered around a compact, business core, with plenty of affordable housing, a diverse economy featuring light industry (electronic/digital assets, etc...). I want to see it grow gradually, with development of both residential and commercial property to benefit the community
- I hope Ridgway will be more diverse but will retain its small town flavor.
- "I don't mind Ridgway growing somewhat, but I hope it remains a small town of maybe up to 2,000 in the area. I hope ALL the town streets will be paved, or at least all of the more trafficked ones, such as Amelia north and south of Sherman. I hope the great music in the park continues. I would love us to have a movie theater and a better conference/performance venue. Having a bike path from Montrose to Ouray would be a huge benefit. There's too much dust and traffic along the routes in both directions now.
- I hope planning will re-route much of the traffic so we don't end up with the clusterf\*^&k of places like Sedona who deliberately attracted tons of tourists without adequate road planning and it takes hours to get anywhere through a very small town. (This is the only possible downside I see to the creative district goals---we need to plan for those who come with adequate roads and alternate routes!) I hope we have ample permanent affordable housing INTEGRATED throughout the community so we have people both live and work here and it not be obvious who is wealthy vs poor. (Boulder is a good example of doing that part fairly well, and putting the burden on the developers to build.)
- I hope we still have enough snow to get out in the backcountry too! And that the air quality is good (vs too much pollution and smoke).
- Isn't there some way the wealthiest in our community can contribute more so we can have paved streets etc? Like a county tax that increases the taxation rate above a certain number of square feet of housing (above 2,000 sq. ft, for example)?"
- Great small town surrounded by open space within the urban growth area.
- Vibrant, friendly, inclusive and caring
- Thriving smallish town with own identify separate from Telluride.
- Maybe a little bigger but still a small town full of people who live and work

here. I hope that this does not turn into a community primarily driven by tourism (hotels everywhere, traffic, a lot of highs and lows in terms of visitation) and second home owners with no connection/commitment to the community. I really hope the town invests in truly affordable housing to help keep a broad spectrum of people in this community.

- Small, compact, walkable, affordable, incredible access to outdoors.
- Vibrant community with well-planned routes for pedestrian and bike travel and greenspace. Maintaining easy public, recreational access.
- A more affordable place to live for diverse people/families with more/the same quality of personal friendliness/kindness, creative and educational offerings and more locally produced food.
- Some higher education courses offered?! Local industry?
- vibrant
- I hope Ridgway will densify as opposed to sprawl, become more racially and economically diverse and continue to nourish its growing and flourishing community arts and recreation scenes!
- A place that has been able to maintain itself despite the changing conditions in Colorado.
- An agricultural based community that is still a small western slope town where people come together.
- a thriving, world renowned arts community
- A place for a diverse community, with affordable housing, where everyone feels welcome, not just the well off.
- I hope that in 20 years Ridgway remains home to an eclectic mix of people with

differing opinions, beliefs, experiences, and backgrounds. I hope the town's development pattern is compact with a cohesive commercial core. I hope that the town is home to a diversity of compatible land uses and a much larger commercial and industrial footprint than in 2018. I hope that Ridgway has a relatively high percentage of residents employed in town who are paid a living wage that supports home ownership in Ridgway. I hope that Ridgway is not a bedroom community to Telluride or any other town in 20 years. I hope that local businesses are thriving and Ridgway is home to a variety of outdoor-recreation-related businesses that are part of a larger regional hub in this growing market segment. I hope that Ridgway remains local and funky without the commercial strip malls and homogeneous residential subdivisions that could be anywhere else USA.

- No more than twice this size. Still affordable housing for average working person. Still happy working and recreating people, still dancing and interested in community and world issues.
- Paonia. An affordable but creative community of about 1,500 people.
- Be balanced
- More sustainable
- "More sustainable
- No plastic bags"
- small town atmosphere, ranching, lots of outdoor space available, affordable for families as well as a variety of ages of singles, more ethnic diversity of people with acceptance of all by all
- Carbondale
- More populous, more dense (taller) in the town core.

- I have no hopes left.
- Sustainable and beautiful with no negative effects from growth.
- A nice loving caring community that wants its Citizens to do well and succeed. With a town council that understands how expensive this place really is for working people. Stop trying to be a Jr. Telluride with too many exclusive rules and fees.
- Better school. More programming for children. Pedestrian friendly. Walkable. Bike lanes. Welcoming.
- More developed. More affordable. More welcoming of new businesses.
- Not Telluride or Boulder!
- A vibrant, caring, welcoming hometown with old and new offerings for all.
- Sustainable, meaning attainable to all economic levels.
- A population of no more than 1500. Ranch land intact and not sold off to developers so they can fill their pockets. Lots of Cows. For every \$300,000 plus home, a \$200,000 home or trailer that can be afforded my working "normal" people that do not come from family money or have earned their \$ else where
- a stronger community committed to adapting to change while holding true to the values of what made this a place I want to live in.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- A town that takes care of its own people and not too worried about the almighty tourist dollar. Build your community with solid character and compassion and the tourists will come.
- Hopefully there will be more housing options for low-medium income individuals. Public transportation between Telluride-Ouray-Montrose that is consistent.
- Outdoor recreation destination. Expand trails for hiking and mountain biking. A place where locals can live and raise families. Public transit to Telluride and surrounding areas.
- Hope it is still an affordable beautiful place to live
- A great little community with more paved streets, (what's up with the grocery store not having a paved lot?). More development is the downtown.
- A little more economic growth.
- greener, slower, known for excellent local food and great dance parties
- A few more houses and a little less monster-sized ranches.
- Better traffic flow. It's time for a light on Sherman. I also imagine the population will at least double
- Better job opportunities
- A stable, friendly community that is seen to manage wisely in growth and services
- not what it is now
- A welcoming mountain community that expects its residents and visitors to respect and care for its resources, natural beauty and each other. I do hope it will still be relatively small.
- Through right management and enforcement of our standards I see growth but not careless and rampant growth. I hope Ridgway will be strong and influential in the direction of Ouray County.
- More affordable housing, the Space to Create in progress, good education, high employment.
- I like the addition of restaurants and other services but still small enough so



that communication among residents will continue to be pleasant and constructive.

- Still friendly
- Small and friendly, not overbuilt.
- My dream would be that we are still a small, tight-knit rural community with a good mix of people, small mom-and-pop businesses, NO chain stores and restaurants, and not a lot of development and sprawl into the surrounding area.
- Small, quaint, environmentally sound, economically stable and recreationally balanced, with the road system no bigger than it already is, and no large "amenities"
- a friendly, wholesome place to live
- I hope there will be more services for seniors, as I will be in my mid 80's by then.
- Still open minded and progressive
- A town that values, preserves and nurtures the natural resources it has and promotes the use of those resources to residents and visitors
- More resources, more affordable housing options, same small town feel.
- A town where rural character and natural environment are protected and preserved.
- Successful small town, recreational hub
- A vibrant small town that welcomes new comers and new assets, while still being able to not lock your doors.
- A productive self-sustaining community even more so than it is now.
- ...a small town with affordable housing, thriving independent businesses, and a welcoming atmosphere that allows all points of view, including traditional views.
- Not much different.
- keep the small town feel.
- A town with a more positive attitude toward change. A town that when an issue presents itself time after time after time, that they do something to address the issue.
- A place where a family can afford to live with decent jobs, outstanding schools, close knit community but still a small town.
- hope Ridgway will have better senior services
- beautiful
- A town with entrepreneurs but with more affordable housing
- A lot of my close friends live and work in this community. I hope in 20 years we are still able to be a part of Ridgway and that I will continue to build relationships and share memories throughout the next 20 years and beyond with them.
- Still small enough where we mostly know each other and care about each other.
- For there to be less farms and pastures
- Affordable, creative, diverse, community oriented where many viewpoints are valued and considered.
- Less cows and yaks, more affordable housing
- Beautiful and interesting. Affordable. More jobs.
- As similar in character as is possible in light of predicted growth.
- I hope it will preserve the ranching heritage of the area, while attracting more remote professional workers and improving infrastructure (i.e. roads & internet) I hope Ridgway has a few more amenities but doesn't grow too much. I hope Ridgway solidifies a legacy of artistic fellowship.

- I hope it maintains the small town feel and that the growth will be consistent with the current character of the area
- I'd like it to be an attractive, sustainable, and vibrant community.
- A small community with an appreciation of its history as we move forward. I would hope that we will still have a thriving ranching community and not just 'gentleman' ranchers who need the write off.
- Still an nice place to live
- Continued careful growth.
- A friendly town that takes pride in and preserves the natural surroundings plus values the history of the Indians, ranchers etc that came before.
- Quieter, less traffic, less people
- Bigger than now, but hopefully not more than pop 2500. Modest, understated, natural architecture, making use of existing materials as much as possible. 100% solar/renewables power. A strong, largely independent community that continues to be insulated by distance from most of the problems of large urban areas,.
- Reasonable growth with same small town vibe.
- Variety of housing options
- Much land preserved for wildlife...also part of this community!
- I would love to see Ridgway welcome some small, regionally appropriate business (10-20 employees) that could help create an economic base that would help support a younger, entry-level population.
- have more cultural activities
- I hope it will keep its small town feel and preserve natural beauty.
- Younger and more progressive demographics! The town needs younger and more creatively minded individuals that aren't just here for a good time in the mountains. If Ridgway can appeal to a younger, more progressively leaning demographic we'll see the town rally cement itself politically and artistically. And I'm not talking Democratic establishment politics like Hillary Clinton, no, it's time to put those people to rest and bring in fresh new blood. But given the age and economic status of most of the town officials (and residents) I'm pretty sure they'll make sure that doesn't happen. Sadly, the egotism and fear from the boomer generation is still strong in Ridgway.
- More arts-minded and sustainably evolved. I hope Ridgway protects its open spaces and wilderness. I hope Ridgway does not get greedy with development. I hope Ridgway is mindful around its tourism campaign and doesn't become like other Western
- Smart growth with businesses and housing that give a convenience to life and recreation. I think Woodland Park Colorado would be a good template to learn from.
- Still small. No urban sprawl
- A place of great beauty with carefully planned growth. A friendly place to walk and bike, nice park areas. Shops and restaurants that reflect the character and uniqueness of the area, that do not look like everytown USA. Roundabouts vs traffic lights / stop signs, no traffic congestion. Ranches bordering town and out further, as they do today; lots of open spaces.

- Have a hospital, better supermarket and day care. Also a nice bakery, bigger library.
- A well rounded community with enough year round population to support its local businesses. Ridgway already has a vibrant summer economy with a host of activities and events, but; to make Ridgway a year round community it is going to need more of a year round population base. It does not matter where this population base may work for employment the important factor is where that base calls home - Ridgway
- Continue to cultivate the arts in our small town. Maintain the small town feel but allow growth.
- I hope Ridgway will find a true balance of support for ranching/mining/and outdoor recreation that allows the community to come together and kick out the resort mentality that should be maintained for telluride and its "elite"
- I don't have a town business (my consulting business serves clients nationwide), but I think that if you're not growing, you're dying. I think growth with intention is key to the plan, and I hope we do have good roads and great services in 20 years (restaurants, doctors, dentists and stores need customers, so I hope our town grows and supports wonderful amenities for us).
- I hope it's like Denver with tons of traffic and unhappy elitists .
- Small, close. People who want to live in a small town do not have to destroy the town by moving there....there are and can be many quality small towns. Why destroy the very reason we came here? Are we really required to do that?
- Similar in feel. I love the downtown and hope it maintains its charm. Though I do hope for more affordable housing to support the younger generations that want to move here. And 100% renewable energy consumption. there should be a mandate to put solar panels on all new builds and roofing remodels.
- completely on sustainable energy. better medical care, pharmacy, more affordable market, sidewalks and paved roads, affordable housing
- I would like there to be some changes to the Ridgway State Park. They should sell food like snow cones/ice cream, chips, and hot dogs in that building near the swim beach. They could also add beach umbrellas and nice chairs to the swim beach area. Maybe have some music playing. It would make me 10x more likely to go there.
- Mountain town with a healthy mix of people of all walks of life.
- A completely walkable town
- Larger, but with the same character it has now.
- Don't know, I live in today.
- A fair and kind ,supportive community.
- Improved affordability
- I hope it is still a ranching community in 20 years.
- More affordable housing, more child care, supportive of incoming younger families. More music, more art, holding the environment as a priority. Children and youth supported in all ways and kept safe from alcohol and drugs.
- I love the current trajectory of community, good restaurants, fun place to hike/bike/walk/play...
- Ridgway
- hope for the right kind of growth

- A peaceful place to live with well thought out growth that will not make development feel unwelcome
- A community with expanded economic opportunities for the middle class, achieved through thoughtful and careful growth. A community that continues to embrace our creative core while still supporting all employment sectors to continue to enjoy our quality of life. A community that is more ethnically diverse and colorful.
- Small, quaint, and still affordable
- A place where the average working family can affordably live.
- A smaller version of Durango i.e. a thriving mountain town that accommodates the younger population as much as the older population, having found a compromise on "quality of life".
- Have a more balanced local economy and housing opportunity and less dependent on town government
- I hope it had a city market! And awesome housing for people
- Can sustain local businesses
- Small town charm where people cherish nature's beauty, respect each other, and treasure towns rich ranch history
- Affordable housing put up, some growth, but not crazy amount, still small town, safe with good school
- Continue to be a ranching community.
- Still small, but revolutionary in its beliefs, culture, and art. Women led.
- More paved roads, well maintained homes and businesses. Responsible growth and plan. Rising real estate values.
- Still a ranching town holding on to its western heritage.
- A great open minded community that welcomes open discussions
- Carbondale
- exactly like it but bigger and better
- I hope that we can use our past to build on the future.
- A community that has allowed responsible growth, keeping its character. Maybe double or triple the population over what it is now.
- Larger but development has been smart.
- I would hope to see the school district improved and thriving.
- Slightly bigger (inevitable) but still the same feel and values.
- It's come from a pass-through town to a stop-in town, but needs to consider becoming a stop and-stay (destination) town.
- Thriving rural community with fiber access to allow people to create and operate their businesses while allowing farming and ranching to co-exist.
- Cleaner environmentally (water, wetlands), slightly larger, but still small and inviting
- Small town
- Grown larger without noticeable changes to current atmosphere. Keep the side streets unpacked for the most part. Gives the town an old west feel. NO national chains or non-regional businesses or restaurants. Affordable housing for local workers, not necessarily subsidized but affordable.
- A bypass from Montrose to Telluride so that the visitors can come, but not just pass through.
- A thriving, affordable, friendly and uncrowded town with ethnic diversity and plenty of water.

- Thriving economy with affordable housing for all, persevered open space and view corridors. Recreation center and pool.
- I hope there is more affordable housing and commercial enterprises.
- A community that had the courage to say no to the temptations that come with success. The real estate market is very strong and people who like to make money see opportunities that will not all improve the community. Controlled growth is so important and so difficult. Please try.
- "I hope Ridgway will continue to maintain its small town feel throughout the years and balance that with growth and growing tourism. I hope Ridgway continues to honor highlight its history by preserving historical structures and continue to develop museums for our residents and visitors to continue to learn about Ridgway.
- I hope the "town" does not sprawl into the valleys and we can maintain that feel of open spaces surrounding town.
- I hope the town and county can continue to help the day care/ child care situation improve. By assisting with affordable spaces to conduct business. The youth are the future of Ridgway and need a safe, enriching place to go where they can grow and learn. Voyager is awesome but cannot accommodate children under 5. "
- The result of managed growth and development that is very sensitive to environmental considerations and the preservation of dark night skies.
- A small community that is serious about managing growth, is welcoming artists and discouraging big city attitudes.
- I hope that Ridgway will still be a small town where everyone knows each other and gets along with one another. I also hope that the scenery stays the same or gets better.
- good restaurants consistently open, but generally a lot like the town is today. better medical services here and nearby (improved doctors in Montrose), smart development of housing, 100 percent renewable energy, more handicap accessible bathrooms and facilities in general
- I'd like to see it be primarily a community of full time residents. Love to see a new elementary school to match the learning potential of the secondary school -- integrated with nature and the natural world. Still a place where you can chat at the post office, watch children play together at the Farmer's Market, and care about your friends and neighbors. Extended families. A place where someone like a teacher or a police officer can afford to live here rather than commute from Montrose
- Free high speed internet, self-driving cars, affordable groceries, public pickleball courts (and other sports as they become popular).
- Still have the same small town feel with a few more shops and restaurants.
- Warm, welcoming, engaged
- Thriving
- I hope Ridgway will attract new businesses that are symbiotic with our surroundings. Businesses that can provide year round employment opportunities.
- Mini version of Ouray
- An even more vibrant community in which young parents and children can

afford to live. And a community in which our teachers, police, government officials and fire department can afford to live.

- Maybe doubled in size with affordable housing options available and thriving businesses downtown. Even more creativity on display throughout the town and the creative sector drives the economy. People can stay here through the end of their lives with enough services locally to support them well. Even more of a strong sense of community based on all the successes we've had working together well toward creative placemaking! Still gorgeous with a healthy forest and river surrounding us.
- Low density with limited sprawl.
- A buzzing, vibrant little town with great food, education, and entertainment options. One that attracts small businesses and more year-round people so the cultural needs that make a town interesting can be supported.
- I hope that Ridgway maintains its green spaces. In particular I hope that it continues to feel like ranching is the defining characteristic of the valley landscape. I would like to see the open grasslands that are south, east, and west of the town maintained as such, rather than broken up into endless homes and condominiums. I hope that there is planned development in this regard -- that the town finds appropriate places for building projects. There should be some strategy for protecting the valley floor, like Telluride did.
- Better Hwy system & biking lanes to Ouray from Ridgway to Telluride to Montrose -- look at Summit County how their bike paths connect communities
- a little bigger, and a lot more perfect

- An environmentally sound community. Less outside intrusive lights, community friendly law enforcement.
- I hope it will continue to grow, but that the growth will be managed and restrained. I hope that the valley floor is not protected, as in Telluride. I hope that this can continue to be a community where people of diverse ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds can live and thrive.
- Affordable health care, sport courts for any/all popular sports/activities
- "Larger. Better and more affordable eating options. Starbucks. Movie Theater.
- 
- Built a proper auditorium at the secondary school that community can also use for film festivals, theater, assemblies, etc."
- Town of not more than 7 - 8000 with large amounts of open space in town and still with access to quiet solitude in our mountains.
- Better access to health and wellness and a more collective approach to health
- Afraid to think about it if the current process continues to the detriment if the longtime residents
- I hope it will not grow too much larger as its size is a great part of its charm. Though it is reasonable to think that it's charm will continue attracting new people as it did us. I hope it will continue to have many concerts, festivals, educational talks, plays, and artistic classes. I hope the people will be as friendly and the atmosphere as lively as it is today. I hope it will have a stronger focus on things such as alternative energy, composting, and reducing waste. I hope that it continues to be pedestrian

and bike friendly. I hope it will be the kind of small town our kids want to stay in and continue to improve and contribute to rather than escape to more interesting opportunities.

- Understanding growth will continue to happen, I would hope that the master plan would reflect growth that is slow, smart (sensible), would retain small town characteristics (don't pave all streets/ no high rises/ keep some of the iconic structures (fire station)/no high density; a recycling and composting center; that all buildings in Ridgway would be powered by renewable energy/that any new structures be built to the most exacting energy efficient standards available/any growth outside of current Ridgway utilities be thought thru for annexation like the Weaver property.
- Still under 3,000, very careful growth to avoid the problems most towns experience.
- thriving creative community, opportunities for working/middle class people to have housing, Interesting development (no cookie cutter subdivisions), higher density development to allow for increased size without resorting to sprawl
- Welcoming with good energy and affordable so that people who work here can live here.
- I hope that it continues to grow slowly, with creativity, wildlife and affordable housing in mind. I hope that wildlife corridors remain and that the night sky can still be observed!
- I hope a few more people leave, but don't think that is going to happen!
- "A vibrant and sustainable community that has grown, but not too big. More community/family/school growth.

- Not too touristy like Telluride. "
- A warm community oriented town with a nice diversity of residents. A lot of artists and craftsmen. I hope it will be a bit more self-sustaining and people won't have to drive to Montrose for everything, but I also hope it doesn't get too commercial or too populated.
- All streets and businesses to be paved. More growth and more businesses.

## Past

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- What it was 20 years ago.
- In 20 years, my greatest hope is that Ridgway will have responsible growth and retain its small town charm (and reality).
- Like it was 20 years ago.
- Like it was when I went to school here and so did my kids.
- Like it was 20 years ago
- Like it used to be but that's not possible
- Like it was 20 years ago
- Back how it was 10 years ago.
- the same as it was 10 years ago
- Like it was in the late 1900's
- I hope Ridgway will find its small town feel again. Remain a safe place.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Just like yesterday.
- The way it was 20 years ago. We all like change, but it wasn't necessarily needed. Again the change was for money.
- hope it will look like it did 20 years ago a small mountain town with history not modern building and fancy artwork.
- Like is was in 2013
- By to a ranching small mountain town feel. I'm not suggesting we shouldn't

grow. But please get the character of mountain and ranching.

### Stay the Same/Similar

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Same as today
- Hopefully pretty much like it is now. Perhaps more people, more restaurants and such... maybe double the current population? I hope all the surrounding wild/natural areas are kept wild and protected from development.
- Similar to today. I fear too much focus on growth. Growing the economy will change the charm of the town. I feel like we are living through the golden age of Ridgway.
- Not much different.
- Very similar to how it is now... small with a continued emphasis on the arts, food, and mountain/ranching living.
- Similar to what it is now with the streets paved.
- Same
- more of the same
- The same as it is now! (Maybe a little bigger)
- different and the same
- Much like it is today... small, rural, independent, sustainable, etc., while making the necessary, reasonable technology and infrastructure maintenance/upgrades along the way
- Not much different than it is right now.
- I hope Ridgway will be much like it is today but without too much growth and sprawl. I hope the ranches and open spaces surrounding Town will remain.
- the same
- like it is
- Basically the same.
- Not too much different
- similar as it is today. Don't lose the identity - gateway to the San Juan's/ think outside.
- Very much the same little town.
- I hope not too much growth.
- I hope that growth is capped and that the towns boundaries with surrounding rural land are unchanged. Many western towns are becoming sprawled atrocities because local people and local government won't resist \$\$\$ and developers. I hope ranchers will be protected, because they are the first line of sprawl defense. I hope the mix of ages will be the same. I hope it will still be a community of families. I hope the open space is preserved and access to the mountains is preserved. I hope it can still be affordable for low income workers.
- Much like today. We have been growing at a reasonable pace and have a lot of amenities for such a small town.
- Still the amazing, diverse (at least for the Western Slope of Colo.) community that it is now, due to successful workforce house initiatives.
- The same as it is. I know this is not a reality but we moved here for Ridgway... to get away from the front range craziness. I hope it doesn't turn into a strip mall, commercialized, pretentious and non-affordable town. What I would like to see is local establishments, conscious building, community events that support the citizens and environment, arts and entertainment, educational experiences for our youth, recreational growth (specially mountain bike trails).
- same



- Very similar to what it is now. Perhaps with a better grocery store, maybe a small hospital of sorts.
- Similar, hopefully.
- Remain a great escape from big cities, traffic and pollution.
- the same as now
- It will remain a small town, at least in feeling, that has undergone careful and thoughtful growth, maintaining its own character. I hope we're not just a bedroom community for Telluride.
- Much the same as it has been with a strong sense of community
- About the same.
- The same as now, but I think growth is inevitable, which can be a good thing as long as it's well managed.
- Just like it is now but with affordable housing.
- Similar to how it is now.
- We need to retain creatives and young people to keep it cool.
- I really hope the wolf ranch(and others) in town remain undeveloped. town and community is still around 3000 people. cost of housing does not increase.
- Similar to how it is now with a few more small houses with big back yards and more interconnecting trails. Where people still work in a community (here Telluride, Montrose, etc) and connect with people i.e don't all work remotely.
- Still a quaint town. More arts and music.
- That it retains its natural character and charm.
- about the same
- Quite similar to what is now - a small mountain community that isn't afraid to grow and change, but also doesn't become the next Boulder.
- It is too late to stop "progress", isn't it?
- Still small
- much of the same
- Ridgway today, but hopefully with better access to medical care.
- The same it is now but with more housing opportunities and cultural events that draw an international crowd.
- the same with good people caring about each other
- A better version of how it is now- keep telluride type overflow out. Keep ranching lifestyle present, more parades!
- Much as it is now with necessary improvements.
- I hope it will be quite similar it how it is now! A town of people who love the mountains and who care about each other.
- To be the same size as it is today.
- Remaining a small town that has focused on making living here possible for all folks, not just the wealthy.
- Slightly larger....but with the same town spirit
- Still a small town
- I know it cannot be the same, but if the values are kept in mind as planning and growth continue, it can retain much of its character.
- Very similar to now.
- Similar to what it is today but with better teacher salaries, more affordable housing, quality health care, high-speed internet, and carbon neutral/sustainable.
- Similar to today but with a better water supply
- A lot the same

- Still a small town with clean air and no litter.
  - This, just more so
  - it will change, of course, but I am hoping that the changes will be gradual and that the kind of people who are attracted here will be kindred spirits who also want to keep the small town character alive somehow.
  - My hope is that Ridgway is able to resist the urban, tourist trap sprawl. That is remains a quaint mountain hamlet that has enough local business influx to help support the locals who live here full time.
  - The same. Maybe a little bigger. I would like to see us have a state of the art medical center instead of the turd one we have. That is a way to create jobs and bring in \$ to the area. I personally care more about this than I do about making Ridgway into an artistic center. In my opinion that only creates opportunity for a few, and doesn't insure real work for anyone.
  - I hope the sense of place and community stays strong.
  - Much the same as it is now, maybe with a few more amenities (more restaurant choices, etc.)
  - Still a one stop-light welcoming town where one doesn't have to worry about locking up their bike
  - Similar to it is now with limited growth.
  - Similar as today but better. Small town vibe, creative, diverse (hope to have more diversity), housing options, great recreational amenities, great community events, ...
  - Well I hope it won't change much, to be honest. I'd like it to stay a lot the same! This is a safe and beautiful town.
  - Stays small and maintains a sense of community.
  - A small community with MODEST population growth goals. Development that does not follow national trends and gives tourists a reason to want to come here. A community that supports the ranchers - I'd like to see the farms in the valleys remain and prevent urban sprawl ruining the natural beauty of the area. To that end, Ridgway should look to developing all the lots within the town boundaries and adjusting height limitations in the far future to encourage redevelopment within the town rather than annexing more property and spreading further into the surrounding area.
  - the same size as it is now; still enforce dark skies
  - close to the same.
  - Similar in ethos with businesses that can actually allow people to live AND work here. Managed growth and more of the same.
  - No bigger than it is now
  - Hopefully mellow and fun like it is now. Not over built with telluride prices.
  - a little bigger (can't be helped) but the same feel.
  - Similar to today, with necessary growth that will allow teachers to live here.
  - not presently hopeful...what hopefulness I have is that urbanizers give up, leave and leave Ridgway to folks who understand and respect living in a mountain community.
- NON-RESIDENT**
- Much like it is now with well-planned but not too much growth.
  - About the same.....

- Retain its small town character.
- Similar to today with controlled growth.
- I hope that is pretty much the same. It needs affordable housing, but I hope it will not make a rich man richer and architecture will match the town itself. I hope the abandoned house on Sherman and Laura is still there. It always makes me smile because it has been here for so long. Maybe turn it into a green space, a park with the little house at the center. Also, I hope Ridgway adopts the Dark Skies Initiative.
- I hope that is pretty much the same. I hope the Uncompahgre River looks the same and there is not any development on the banks except for trails. I even like the abandoned box house on Sherman and Laura. It always makes me smile because it reminds me of what Ridgway was. A few flowers might help. Maybe make a green space around it. I also hope that Ridgway adopts the Dark Skies Initiative. I realize growth and development are inevitable, but I hope we do it wisely and keep the integrity of the town. I also hope there are no chains and the businesses are owned and run by people who live here. I hope Family General disappears, but at least it is on the side of 550 that isn't part of the older town. I would like to see the "no idling" rule used more often. I love the street lights, benches, and art sculptures. I hope Ridgway continues to develop into a mountain town that keeps its character and doesn't change too much. Keep the dirt streets we have.
- Exactly the same in many ways, but kept current with environmental and aesthetic issues.
- Not very different than it does now. I've been here for 23 years and the progress has been reasonable and for the most part positive. I worry that the tide will turn to profit a few at the expense of the rest of the community.
- I hope it will not have changed much. I like the dirt roads and the eclectic housing. I hope the little wooden box of a house on the south side of 62 that looks abandoned is still there because it is a reminder of old Ridgway. I hope any development will blend with the town and not take away from the natural environment. I hope there will be trails along the Uncompahgre River and not buildings. I love that the businesses are owned by people who live here and not corporations. I hope Family Dollar disappears, but at least it is with like buildings. I hope there aren't any chain stores in Ridgway or Ouray. I hope it continues to grow as an artist and foodie community, but without corporation. I would like to see more diversity as far as ethnicity goes.
- The same as it is today. See above.
- The same as it is now, with opportunity for average people to start a family.
- Similar but a little bigger I think
- Just like it is
- Similar.
- Much like it is today, with quaint shops, tree lined streets and a welcoming park. Managed growth such that new buildings and houses fit in with the town's old western cow and railroad town appearance.
- Exactly the way it is now, we hope! We have seen "progress" change too many small (western) towns, to a point of being congested, and undesirable.
- similar to what it is now
- The same as it is now.

- Close to the way it is now.
- The same
- Just like it is today. With more historical buildings having been maintained and used.
- Exactly the same :)
- I hope Ridgway can maintain its small town character and not just be an off shoot of Telluride. I hope it will still be friendly to ranchers and hippies alike and offer opportunity to both.
- same
- The same
- The same small town, where privately owned businesses thrive. Small business is the main base for the community in which entrepreneurs can raise a family.
- The same
- More of what it is now - fun, relaxed, caring of the environment, full of good people.
- Similar to now and geared towards year round residents and businesses.
- Similar but more jobs and a good grocery store
- similar to now except I hope our work force can afford to live here and not commute from Montrose
- Hopefully, the same but with more affordable housing. The same kind people as today.
- Pretty much like it is now, but with some infrastructure improvements such as better broadband internet access
- Same character, more mature, but still charming.
- I wish it could stay the same.
- I hope we will still have our small town charm without the attitude of Telluride
- Same
- Similar, with additional housing that is affordable.
- Like it is now.
- I hope it will remain a small diversified town.
- THE SAME AS IT IS NOW!!
- The same way it is now.
- Much the same with continued improvements in amenities (like paved streets). Same feel of people coming together to help each other.
- not much different than today
- the same would like to see home values rise
- I hope it will be similar to what it is now
- same
- Better roads on Log Hill, otherwise not much different
- Same
- the same as.
- Just like it is.
- not too much changed
- It is hard to envision Ridgway being different than today.
- Close to same as now.
- Much like it is now with paved roads, without dilapidated houses and doublewide residences. Boutique businesses and restaurants, entertainment venues, free Thursday night concerts in the park.
- The same
- Similar to now
- The same.
- same as now, no bigger or busier.
- I hope it maintains a sense of living in a small close knit community.
- Very similar to today.

- Same vibe, a bit larger footprint with a few more services, but remaining a rural town with a mountain town atmosphere.
- Hopefully it will stay much the same as it is now.
- The same!
- Growth with the same feel.
- The same as it is now.
- I hope it will remain small, quaint, and friendly.
- "Not too much different. Still a small
- Town with unique shops
- And restaurants. More affordable housing."
- I hope it will still be a ranching community.
- A community that still values the beauty of nature we are surrounded by, and maintains a small town atmosphere with residents that respect each other's differences.
- Still small and more affordable.
- Similar to what it is today
- don't want it to change much
- Same.
- My dream would be that it could still retain its small town character. Mom and pop businesses abound, and no "formula businesses" (corporate chains) have been allowed in town. Family Dollar has been run out of town on a rail and their ugly building has been razed to the ground. Ridgway would have the distinction of being one of the only authentic small towns left in America due to its insight, wisdom and political will.
- same as it is now but cooler
- I would hope it still feels like a mountain town lifestyle with the small town feeling.
- Like it is now, but with less traffic on the highways and fewer visitors.

## Q13: WHAT DO YOU FEAR RIDGWAY WILL BE LIKE IN 20 YEARS?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Homes/VRBOs

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Heavy proportion of second home owners/part time residents.
- Telluride/Aspen/Vail. Full of McMansions that stand empty 3/4s of the year and restaurants that serve the worst possible food because overhead is so high. A place where people commute in to serve the rich and don't get to enjoy the community they work so hard to build and sustain.
- 2nd home owners and VRBO's.
- Second home owners and loss of character
- Second home-owners, majority retirees, majority Republicans.
- Overpriced like Telluride. Hope it never becomes just a VRBO community or 2nd home community.
- Too many people. Second home owners. Short term rentals.
- Way bigger and too many second home owners

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Santa Fe or Taos. A bunch of empty second homes owned by hippy rich people that visit a few times a year.
- Too many part time residents in opulent houses
- Empty second home.
- I fear with the increase of Telluride relocators and second or third time home buyers the authenticity of Ridgway will be ruined in 20 years.
- All second home owners or retirees

- Transient community with little business to employ residents surrounded by second home/ranch owners who are only here part time.
- Concern that we become an over populated town of second home owners and vacation rentals where the house prices are too high for a diverse community to live within and all the backroads are paved and people are driving too fast and all the ranches have been subdivided into housing developments.
- I hope that it is not overwhelmed by wealthy second-home owners, and I hope that it does not become dependent on tourism. The town currently has strong economic diversity and it would be a shame to lose that. I don't want teachers and other community jobs to be staffed by people who have to commute in from Montrose because they can't afford to live in Ridgway.

### Bedroom Community

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- A bedroom community for Telluride.
- The one thing I fear most is that Ridgway becomes more of a bedroom community for Telluride and therefore loses the small town character it has now. I'm hopeful that town council resists the urge to build a lot more "affordable" housing in an effort to relieve the Telluride housing shortage for service workers. That will just devalue the current properties and the long term value for Ridgway when the affordable housing becomes run down and attracts an element in society that is not desired. See Shandoka in Telluride! This is an appealing trap that town council should avoid like the plague!!!

- Fully paved, full of people who don't actually work here, a bedroom community to Telluride rather than its own community, too expensive for people to live and work right here in the county.
- a bedroom community mostly being passed through by a line of cars in each direction going/coming to Telluride
- Not sure, hopefully not Carbondale-just a feeder town w/ no signature character.
- Suburb of Telluride, VRBO mecca, no locals.
- Carbondale. Sprawl. A bedroom community for Telluride where residents live in Ridgway but work, eat, play and socialize in Telluride....even take their kids to school in Telluride....this would splinter the community. Alternatively, full of retirees and second-home owners, lacking socioeconomic and cultural diversity.
- Too many second homes, too much of a bedroom community for Telluride workers.
- Bedroom community.
- An overpriced bedroom community that has lost its small town charm
- A growing bedroom community for Telluride where it is even more expensive to live.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Extreme property values, traffic congestion, Wildfire damage, ranchers selling out and developers making golf courses and similar crap. No progress on road quality despite the increase in population. Basically a bedroom community of Telluride.
- I fear that we will be the Ridgway to Telluride like Carbondale is to Aspen.

- More like suburbia than it is now becoming !
- A bedroom community with big box retail.

#### **Commercial**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I fear Ridgway may "sell out" and lose its charm and creativity.
- I fear Ridgway will lose its character and be a Disneyland version of a mountain/ranch town.
- The same as everywhere else in the US. Another stop on a map with the same stores and facilities as everywhere else with soulless repetitive housing developments justified by the need for affordable pricing. (I don't believe affordable housing has to be poorly designed - but I fear it will be accepted with budgeting as the justification)

##### **NON-RESIDENT**

- A commercial rat trap... with no consistency of character or identity.
- I fear Ridgway will turn into an Aspen or Telluride and sell its soul down the river for more revenue. I hope Ridgway is mindful around its tourism campaign and doesn't become like other Western towns like Moab or Aspen that have lost their souls. I hope it doesn't become too busy or traffic-filled or overrun by the rich.
- Bought out by mega corporations and the rich.
- I would dislike if major corporations moved in and took away business from the local families.
- Too modern and slick losing the small town charm and feeling of uniqueness
- Hotels, resorts, and a bus system. Pockets will be fat, and I will be listing my house.

- Montrose. We don't need big box stores, new buildings that stand out like the Family Dollar, large multi-unit apartments and condos.
- Larger, but hopefully independent of the trappings of Disney-like towns with franchise businesses
- I would hate to see a big box store in Ridgway.

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Displaying the negatives of Telluride-- snobbishness, crowded streets/venues, with a preponderance of liberal, artsy people.
- I've lived in several "gateway" or "resort-adjacent" communities over the last 45 years. I've watched people move into those communities with high expectations for idyllic lives. I've watched them bring their unique issues and expectations with them, and as a result their new home begins to look more and more like the places they left behind. I've watched developers use those communities as a commodity for their own enrichment. I would hate to see this happen here, or for Ridgway to become a place where only wealthy people can live -- their own exclusive "club".
- Another "ski area" town where only 2nd home owners own and expensive stores over run local establishments.
- Too many residents causing traffic problems and congestion in restaurants and local businesses. Increased lack in pride of ownership of residences.
- A retirement community where the only industry is service industry

- I fear that we are losing the moral fabric that is necessary to be a family friendly community.
- Attitude
- A bunch of pot smoking hippies and even more drugs
- A place for those who feel entitled with an expectation that the government will take care of everything.
- That Ridgway tries to become another Boulder "
- Too controlled by governmental small minded people with personal agendas
- changed do to people with money moving here that want it to become like the place they moved from

### NON-RESIDENT

- Full of middle aged millenials who work from home
- A bunch of gate closers trying to keep it the way it was by keeping others out.
- ... a radical left-wing community that will not tolerate anyone with traditional morality, where honest debate is not welcomed.
- Too Liberal
- Overrun with folks who impose their views and turn Ridgway into California
- way too liberal
- I fear that it will fall into the lure of tourism like Ouray. That you have less chance of meeting your neighbor at the park or at a concert and more chance of being surrounded by strangers everywhere you go (one of the reasons we left the front range). That the interesting artists will be replaced by t shirt sellers and excellent restaurants by mediocre ones. That traffic will be so crazy it's not safe to bike or walk.



- More conservative and isolated.

### Expensive/Wealthy

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Another expensive overpriced mountain community that only rich people can afford.
- Lose its small town character along with an increase in the cost to live here.
- Owned by Kari Wage and those similar who are inflating real estate prices making cost of living difficult for the real locals.
- Too big and too wealthy
- Too expensive for 'normal' families to be able to live and work in a cool place. Jobs is the biggest obstacle to Ridgway continuing to thrive. Without jobs, it will simply turn into a retirement community for the wealthy!
- An elite and overpriced overflow of Telluride and second homeowners.
- Most residents who live here today will be forced out by rising prices and demand from people with more money
- Too expensive to live and become a second home destination.
- It will become a town for the rich.
- I fear that Ridgway will turn into the next little mountain town that only part time rich people can afford to live in.
- I fear that it will become occupied by rich white people, with all working folks having to live in Montrose or Olathe.
- That we will price average, middle class people out of our market and our town.
- Full of people from Boulder and the front range who came with money that forced others out.
- Too expensive to live with my family of four.
- I hope it doesn't turn into a town of 2nd homeowners and the incredibly wealthy... like Telluride.
- Even more expensive allowing only the rich to reside here
- Second home owner town with less locals, Airbnb's that won't allow people to rent here, too pricey.
- Too expensive to keep the interesting diversity we have now. Charming for those who can afford it. Too bad.
- Congested town center where it's impossible to get across Hwy 62. Elitist population because of high cost of living.
- expensive for young people
- We will be taken over by second home owners, too many AirBnB's, more homes will cause sprawl, cost of living too high, weather too hot.
- Too expensive for average folks to live here, as we see the billionaire's pushing the millionaire's out of Telluride, are we next if 5 , 10, 20 years.
- Local working people won't be able to afford to live and it will become another 2nd home type of community.
- Just another town that lost its heart and soul because the socio-economic diversity was lost to second-home owners and other wealthy landowners/speculators.
- A mountain town that only has properties owned by part time residents that only wish to rent out their homes. That or an overpriced place to live.
- Overcrowded with home prices even higher than they are now.
- Overpriced, over-consuming, second home resort, with a workforce housed in

Delta, and no pragmatic community locals.

- Full of millionaires and empty houses.
- Becoming too "elitist" and expensive for most people to afford.
- Crowded and congested, too expensive and elitist (e.g., Telluride) and just a tourist attraction with no viable or diverse economic opportunities for residents.
- My only fear is in regards to the lack of affordable housing options.
- A retirement community filled with old, boring, wealthy, whites from Texas.
- I fear that it will become increasingly expensive and insular, and therefore more artificial.
- Out of reach financially for all but the uber rich (like Telluride)
- Like Carbondale, with completely unaffordable housing and lots of tourists.
- A high dollar mountain town that is unaffordable.
- Too much traffic cutting our town in half, causing more noise pollution and delays getting around. Lots of empty second homes, real estate values and lack of employment opportunities making it too expensive to live here. Insufficient and/or undesirable affordable housing. Probably another economic downturn that lasts longer and depletes all but the wealthiest multiple-home owners from our community who then buy up places in foreclosure and reduce the diversity of our community.
- Ridgway can easily become like Telluride with over priced housing and too expensive restaurants and because the Town did not support efforts to put density in the town where it belongs and pushes development further down valley to Montrose.
- Too high a cost of living such that only wealthy white people can afford to live here. Highway 62 becomes a traffic nightmare.
- We will become another Carbondale, Vail, etc. That we will lose our sense of community. Low income families will be forced to move away. Ranchers will sell their property and open space is replaced with subdivisions.
- expensive, bland, crowded, hot
- Commercialized or a higher cost of living making it unaffordable for me to reside here.
- Building restrictions and costs to build drive the costs up to the point where this is a retirement community or 2nd homeowners only.
- Like Mountain Village or Vail minus the ski resorts.
- There is a possibility it will become too unaffordable for many changing the community in many ways including being of a more transient nature.
- Yet another resort town where anyone who lives there has moved there with out of town wealth and the people who grew up in the area or work paycheck to paycheck are forced out.
- I fear the strong potential for Ridgway to become an expensive bedroom community with no living wage employment opportunities for locals. This fear is based on the fact that as broad demographic trends continue and Ridgway continues to "be discovered," more and more homes will be bought/constructed by or for second home owners, retirees, and those escaping "the city." Additional residents that bring their money with them will continue to drive up home prices and the

town's workforce will have to live farther and farther away. At the end of the day, the fear is that Ridgway becomes more and more gentrified and too expensive for anyone making <200% of AMI to live here without being terribly cost burdened. This trend is already underway and has the potential to kill what currently makes Ridgway "cool" and turn it into a mini "up-valley" community with all the associated downsides.

- Too expensive to maintain what little diversity exists.
- Too materialistic, only wealthy people could afford to live here
- arid, expensive, over-developed
- Unaffordable, no community feel.
- "Really Stoned and expensive, exclusive rich Stoners, Or to many rules, that can't be enforced, complaint driven instead of enforcement of reasonable rules. We already exclusive, Farmers Market on Friday during working hours, Most people do not attend cause there at work! Only people who don't work attend. "
- Totally unaffordable for common, working folks or dead--because people didn't invest in the infrastructure of the town.
- Exclusive. Excluding. A commuting service base.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Over-run with the very rich, who have the money and that sense of entitlement which goes with money.
- Too expensive and too exclusive.
- Breckenridge, Boulder, Aspen, commercialized and only the rich can live here.
- Breckenridge. We need more affordable housing, but I am afraid of sprawl and ugly buildings. I hope that new housing

will have to blend with the town and be well built. I worry about corporations moving and very wealthy people who only want to make money and don't really care about the town.

- It will become exclusive for rich folks and crowd out others, particularly young people who may not be as affluent.
- I hope it does not end up like Breckenridge or Aspen. I hope it remains difficult to get to and only people who really appreciate what Ridgway has to offer will make the journey. I hope it remains affordable for all people not just the super-rich. I hope more people can live here year round. The vacation rental situation is a problem. Rentals for people who live here are difficult to find or unaffordable. But I do not want condos popping up everywhere that are unattractive or blocks views.
- It will be too expensive to live or survive in
- So popular and desirable that the people most interested in the town's welfare can't afford to stay.
- still no affordable housing
- I am so scared Ridgway will be unrecognizable and it will only be a spot where wealthy people can afford to live.
- My worst fear is that Ridgway would become a glorified retirement village with housing costs and building regulations too restrictive to allow a multi-tiered economy.
- too expensive and too built-up
- It could very well become a wealthier, more conservative and even older community.
- Not enough housing options in the free market (rental & purchase). The most affordable house in Ridgway starts at

\$1M. The community Ridgway has today is replaced by folks (mainly second/third homeowners) that have been priced out of Telluride - again take a look at the Carbondale area....

- 20 years from now it will be like Telluride. No-one will be able to afford it. It will still be over priced and they will just move to another small town and change it too.
- A small town for the rich to act like they are “roughing” it. Seems to be headed that way
- more of a Rich peoples town I think it's where we are headed.
- The same trajectory it's on now ..PEBBLE the little boulder where no one can afford to live AI doing jobs so the elitists will retire and not have to look at the working class people who have to live in Grand Junction .
- All the lower income workers will be living in Montrose (which is now a sprawl of inefficient ugly houses), the residences are exclusively second home-owners, the schools no longer have funding, and the dollar tree is the only place to shop for groceries outside of Montrose.
- Overpriced retirement community
- too expensive for working people to live here
- A snooty, expensive totally tourist town.
- Too expensive for regular, full-time residents to live and work
- I fear it will be just like Telluride - cost of living, hoity attitudes.
- Telluride, all second home owners or very wealthy people
- Over populated and filled with Texans - not able to afford to live here anymore.
- That the town will be a retirement community for the wealthy who could not afford Telluride
- Rich
- Increasing prices and displacement of longtime residents to be nothing more than a bedroom community for Telluride.
- too expensive to live here
- What Telluride is now, too expensive for the average person.
- The cost of living will be beyond the means of many younger families
- I worry it will over grow and be like Montrose.
- too gentrified
- An overcrowded, expensive enclave of absentee super-rich white landowners, filled with Gucci stores and no soul.
- too expensive for the majority of workers, impossible to drive through due to major traffic jams on Hwy 62.
- Too big and expensive!
- Too expensive
- I fear with the lack of affordable middle class housing, we could end up like Telluride. We need to make it affordable for middle income families with children to live in this area.
- Just another big tourist community with high prices for everything.
- Like the big city people are trying to make it now. Too expensive for locals to live there.
- Paved over paradise with expensive establishments and mansions littering the landscape.
- A mess, overpriced and full of telluride refugees
- Too expensive for the average family. A commune for the homeless.

- Less community-minded, more expensive to live in with unaffordable housing and therefore mostly wealthy folks who have retired here. Climate change has made it too hot for me to enjoy being outdoors and the risk of wildfire is huge.
- “Too exclusive” to embrace economic diversity
- based on money instead of community
- A haven for the rich.
- Un-affordable for middle income people, unoccupied second homes, too much like Telluride,
- High cost of living so local workers have to commute.
- Another telluride. Too expensive for most people. A playground for the rich with no community left.
- A nice refuge for people fleeing high cost places like California and New York? A pricy mountain town where cost of living is too high to support the community. A pricey bedroom community for Telluride?
- Over developed and crowded. The town is in a good place today and has mostly working class families. Hopefully it won't become dominated by 2nd homes and part time residents and tourists in the future. I cringe when I hear talk about development and "progress".
- That it will be large, dirty, and noisy.
- Fear? Well, more populated without small town character.
- overpopulated
- Overgrown, impersonal. No longer feels like it is our community
- A big town with a city attitude more crime less caring community people driven by money and power no matter who they hurt.
- It becomes another sprawling suburbia with traffic congestion and houses built on top of each other.
- strip mall on 550, a victim of its own "coolness"
- Big, over 2000 people, crowded, hectic traffic.

## Growth

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- In 20 years, my greatest fear is that Ridgway will grow beyond its capacity to be a small town. This carrying capacity of our valley is limited. However, those with only dollar signs in their eyes will ignore this.
- too spread out, too many people, difficult to cross Sherman Street on foot or bike, no ranch and/or farm land
- Crowded. Loud. Impersonal. Telluride. Lack of water for increased population.
- Over developed, no parking, not enough water, noisy, not peaceful, open space gone.
- Overrun with out-of-state second home owners and a population that has more than doubled and the presence of chain stores/restaurants
- More people. More traffic.
- Overcrowded... expensive... retirement town... like Tride.
- getting to big
- Crowded with poor air quality.
- Paved streets, locked doors and big box stores.
- Overly commercialized from big business
- Gobs of people, not safe for kids to have the freedoms they do now....waiting in lines to go to our favorite digs.....Less

safe, more crime, not knowing or able to trust everyone....

- Too much growth
- Too many people, not enough water
- Just one more over-built town with lots of high density housing, light pollution, noise pollution, a river corridor that has been lost to developers, and few new parks.
- My only fear is mass uncontrolled development due to the departure of ranching and agriculture. Keep it rural!
- Too many people.
- Urbanized with loss of its culture
- Traffic
- A real estate speculation wasteland, and sprawl. I fear the whole Unc river corridor will eventually be subdivided into 1/10th acre lots with five floor plans to choose from. The area near the high school is already going this way.
- Congested, the infrastructure is not developed for much more growth
- just a bit bigger
- A sprawling city with traffic. I would prefer that growth be limited and well thought through - even if that means higher home prices long-term.
- Too much through traffic and sprawl.
- Overcrowded, too many lights, too many cars driving fast off the main street, not knowing anyone when I go out for a meal. I fear that no one will wave to each other anymore which is a trend I have noticed since I moved here. Everyone used to wave. I fear it will become a mini Boulder.
- too big
- A town where I would have to lock my door at night because it got too big and strange people move in.
- Crowded.
- 5000 residents and a town that lost its charm.
- Too big. Overrun.
- subdivisions and shopping linking along highway 550 between Montrose, Ridgway, and Ouray, Limited trail/forest access, and water shortages.
- Big, snotty and overpopulated
- That growth will sprawl out.
- over developed
- Suburbanized in style and density.
- All the open fields and spaces around town will be developed with more housing.
- I fear Ridgway will be "discovered" and we will have uncontrolled growth inconsistent with our resources.
- "Growth and building are spread out all over the valley, density is not promoted as a method for minimizing driving, streets and amenities are not located to encourage participation, and driving becomes a necessity for every errand or activity.
- Affordable housing (physical, monetary, etc.) must be required for any new employer coming into the area in order to prevent fracturing of the community.
- Try to encourage small industry, and remote work that can support someone living here (fast internet required for this!)."
- Too much growth.
- California and San Francisco in particular
- crowded
- Another valley filled with houses, businesses, traffic, and no agricultural land.
- Chain businesses and too many people.

- That there will be parking and traffic issues and that all of these mobile home will still be here decaying and bringing down property values.
- Too much low density development. Too touristy.
- Uncontrolled growth with crowded, poorly maintained roadways and no unique pedestrian travel routes. Limited greenspace. Overrun by tourists.
- too big to know folks when you go to a community event. too many cars.
- overcrowded, too busy
- Overcrowded, over developed, busy
- Overbuilt.
- Over built with paved roads. Paving streets is one of the best ways to encourage growth by appealing to those who live in large cities.
- Too crowded, Lose its history. Become unrecognizable
- Too many houses and traffic. Ugly poorly made and poorly planned new housing.
- Too spread out.
- More crowded, more parties and festivals, more like so many other towns in the USA catering to the status quo.
- A community that strives for economic growth without respecting the boundaries and values of the resident in the residential districts. A place where I cannot afford to life.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- We lose our small town to too much growth and big city problems.
- overdeveloped and overpriced with no agriculture
- Over-developed
- Over building that destroys the beauty of our landscape
- Overbuilt
- I fear it will become generic, like most other towns, with corporate chain stores and restaurants forcing locally owned ones to close their doors. I fear it'll get too gentrified with all the millionaires moving in after the billionaires have taken over Telluride. I fear all the open surrounding ranch land will be developed into condos and golf-courses and subdivisions. (But then, I also fear it'll all dry up and burn down.)
- highly business oriented and uncontrolled growth with scarce resources.
- Too busy!!!!
- Over-developed, crowded, expensive, full of chain store sameness, catering to the wealthy, primarily a vacation rental location.
- Unchecked, not well planned growth.
- Too crowded.
- too big!
- Growing and having unwanted people in the community.
- Too busy, too big, too expensive for us to really care about our neighbors.
- BIGGER
- Too big and too crowded
- It would be sad if it was surrounded with ugly new housing subdivisions and big box stores
- I fear that the ranches will disappear and there will be too much growth.
- Way too big.
- NOT exactly the same. :(
- different
- That it will grow too big and get too crowded.

- I fear that the ranchers will have sold their land to developers and there will be a lot of ugly development.
- Too many people, too much traffic, too many houses detracting from the beauty of the area. Sloppy growth minimizing vistas. Realtors / developers controlling the town and selling our best assets for a quick buck.
- overcrowded, developed commercially, more trophy houses, more traffic, resembling other mountains towns like Salida
- That development will be out of control and buildings everywhere destroying our mountain hometown.
- A real estate development boom
- It won't be the same.
- Over development, failure of long range planning, failure to zone properly.
- Too big, too busy, & too expensive.
- Probably lots of urban sprawl and development.
- Much more populated, more traffic, less remote
- Just another town with lots of people who don't know each other and don't care to. Too much traffic and a lack of regard for the safety of the community and the wildlife we should protect. If I still live here and the community goes this way, I will most likely not enjoy going out to restaurants, events, etc. I will most likely stop supporting something I no longer believe in. Something local business owners should consider as they strive to increase visitation beyond what is sustainable: the locals support them when the visitors are gone. If locals no longer feel the desire to use these services, the services will, in the long run, lose. Please remember what brought most of here in the first place. It wasn't huge crowds of people passing through town.
- "Too much traffic. Residents too close together. Too expensive for working families to stay here.
- I fear the co-housing project and its location will bring more traffic to Ridgway. "
- We don't want to see the downtown cobble jocked together, needs a historic vibe.
- Crowded, congested and overdeveloped. I hope there will always be dirt roads in town!
- Greater population, more businesses, total loss of small ranching community
- At worst, an outer suburb/exurb of a semi-megalopolis of gradual urbanization and/or gentrification beyond the communities ability to control, with poorly constructed, tasteless development and the need for wider streets, faster speed limits and too much heat exhaust and concrete.
- I don't think any of us like traffic, so I hope the town's roads and infrastructure support the town over the next 20 years. Thanks Mayor John and the town govt for the great roads in place now!
- Ranchers feeling excluded from the modern growth and population influx, fleeing Ridgway, selling their properties for the top dollar to developers, creating a dense maze of cookie-cutter developments to accommodate Telluride's growth.
- Crowded, fast without character because there are too many people who like crowded and fast.
- I fear that Sherman/Hwy 62 through town will get too congested changing the entire



character of Ridgway. Even with the widening.

- I fear that Ridgway will be too overpopulated and it will not be considered as safe as it is now, and it won't be enjoyable to be around.
- What Telluride is struggling with right now. There are jobs, but housing is out of reach for many particularly if you have a pet. It is difficult to retain and hire employees when they don't have living options.
- Bigger and busier.
- It will lose its charm of feeling like a small town.
- High density with sprawl throughout a narrow river valley.
- Overcrowded and full of traffic
- I fear the sprawl of unhindered development, or Ridgway becoming an unaffordable, overly precious place like Telluride.
- Too big.
- Over developed, noisy and crowded with a theme park - like atmosphere.
- I fear for development of homes/even businesses on the valley floor between Ridgway/Ouray.
- Double population, chain stores, more and more concrete, noise, less wild life, and light populated skies.
- too busy
- Too crowded.
- too many people, too much development, too many visitors.

## Miscellaneous

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- The opposite of all the things I have said I liked. Hope you don't consider this a cop out.
- No fears of growth or opportunities.
- I have confidence that it will be an even better community and hopefully more diverse.
- No fears!
- Less Ridgway, more Boulder.
- don't know ...but very different
- "Everyone will have guns...
- Just kidding
- "
- I can't wait to see Maya Lin design the new town office building!
- Ruined
- Conifer
- It will have paved streets just like where all the new comers came from.
- "It is all so over taken with the Art world
- the common person doesn't stand a chance"
- too many rules may be in place
- Carbondale, Basalt, Eagle, Frisco -- places where the original character of the town has been completely lost.
- Welcoming, diverse, sustainable and secure financially
- I won't recognize the western traditions and Ag flavor.
- Become a mountain of plastic bags filled with dog poop
- Buried in plastic bags and dog poop
- Too shaped by mirroring other areas that have lost their character and charm.

## **NON-RESIDENT**

- oh no
- I am not sure.
- Abandoned
- I don't even want to think about it.
- A mess
- Unlivable
- A mess
- As money and influence come our way I fear bullying and disregard for what we want to preserve and further. There have already been two recent cases in which the County has made some very disappointing decisions.
- We worry about more Pot Shops-grow facilities/Marijuana USA
- Aspen
- CHANGE!!! I have seen it happen too many times in beautiful places.
- Take away from the way the town and county was made of.
- Run down, many homeless..
- California
- sleepy
- To many restrictions
- Different
- Breckenridge or anything in the central mountains...
- Steamboat Springs or Aspen.
- Too different
- Unaffordable, CR 1 still unpaved, lack of public sport courts for pickleball and other sports as they become popular
- Disneyland
- Afraid to think about it if the current process continues to the detriment if the longtime residents

## **Natural Environment**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- A barren desert wasteland after climate change kicks into high gear, the monsoons stop coming, and all the forests are dead. Or, less pessimistically, most of the houses are bought up by second home owners or are rented out as VRBO/AirBnb's, leaving no reasonable place for locals to buy or rent, so the locals will have to drive in from Montrose (See: pretty much any ski town in Colorado).
- Plastic bags filled with dog poop trashing our pristine environment
- I fear looking like Montrose or Grand Junction. Avoid storage units on highway, smoke filled air from wood burning stoves, subdivisions where wildlife habitat has been, lack of access to the river. Harley Davidson motorcycle rallies. Vail. Durango (which used to be super cool, now it is over run)

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Lack of land conservation to protect our vistas.
- Loss of open valleys and scenic corridors
- Burnt down
- More polluted and less personal
- I fear our natural surroundings will be radically changed, for the worse, by climate change.

## **No Fears**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I don't have many "hopes" or "fears" for Ridgway
- I'm not afraid.
- I rarely fear !! Doubt I will be alive in 20 years!!

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Progress happens and I feel that Ridgway will still be wonderful
- I actually feel like Ridgway is in great hands. Progress has been limited to infrastructure, rather than promoting larger business development.
- Actually I feel Ridgway is going on the right path. Getting already new day care, and have new project for a bigger library.
- I don't have any fears.
- No fear.
- No fears
- I don't really have any.
- No fears with the present leadership team of Clark, Coates, and Silbert....keep it going!
- No fears.

### **Stagnation**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- What it is now, only worse.
- A small town that never reached its potential.
- Like it is now, only more so.
- The town will continue to tolerate excess car , boat, trailer storage and stacks of blue warped whatever, all visible from the street, if not already parked there.
- I fear that nothing will be done.
- the same as it is today
- The same, or unplanned/misplanned. I feel that the improvements made in the last two years are fine, but not enough. No one walks anywhere because there's no continuous sidewalks. No one bikes anywhere for the same reason . People seem happy with mediocrity. If you are hiring planners, make sure they unite the whole town, not just certain businesses.

Pave the road at the school and spruce up the elementary.

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- That very little will change and it will be chaos
- The same as now, not much progress
- Exactly as it is today, a town that resist change and rehashes the same issues with no action.
- The same
- The same.
- The same as now. Struggling businesses, .....
- Without modern transportation, without free public high speed internet, without enough infrastructure to get old here.
- A town that hasn't kept up with the times as far as technology or cultural offerings.
- The same
- hasn't changed much. Affordable housing increases drug culture and seedy residents. still slow internet speeds

### **Telluride/Boulder/Other Mountain Communities**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Carbondale, Basalt, Eagle, Frisco -- places where the original character of the town has been completely lost.
- Montrose.
- Montrose
- That we will be full of wealthy, entitled, privileged white people. I fear we will be more like Telluride sitting nice and fat and forgetting about the rest of the people who are less privileged and fortunate than us. I fear we will be an ignorant homogeneous town posing as an open all inclusive "progressive" western town. yuck.

- Crowded, expensive. Telluride.
- Telluride
- Another telluride or boulder.
- Small town Telluride.
- a suburb of Telluride with the majority of housing units as short term rentals
- I fear it will be like Telluride. For example, we already have way too many festivals, in my opinion. We are obviously trying hard to attract people here and then the costs go up and folks want amenities like in the city (one of the reasons we moved here is because there are less amenities). As stated above, many people who can afford to live here comfortably do not work here or are comfortably retired. I also fear a lot less diversity and a mentality of the "haves and have-nots" with no one in between.
- Telluride, Durango Too many short term rentals which will steal the heart of Ridgway.
- Telluride, Boulder or Breckenridge ... where the workers no longer live but rather commute from far away.
- Telluride. Lake City. Aspen. Over built, expensive. Workers coming even more from Montrose and beyond.
- Telluride or Aspen ~ attitude, yuck!
- Telluride without the ski hill
- Telluride. Full of second homeowners.
- Unfortunately like Telluride
- Telluride
- like Telluride
- Telluride. It's almost there. The people just don't have as much money as the ones in Telluride
- Another Telluride, Aspen or Vail.
- Overrun like Telluride
- A feeder town to Telluride with all that goes with that status. In the words of Edward Abbey, "unbridled growth is the ideology of a cancer cell". If it becomes all about money, Ridgway will have failed.
- housing for telluride
- More like telluride
- Telluride
- Like Telluride, point blank.
- More like Telluride.
- Telluride. Too much development, traffic, and tourism. Higher prices. Lack of a small-town feel.
- Telluride
- A bedroom community for Telluride that has no soul. Or a suburb of Montrose
- Telluride
- Little Telluride
- A new Telluride.
- I fear Ridgway will become another Telluride, (uptight and overpriced), or worse, more like Montrose, (closed minded and cheap). I worry we will have expanded beyond the small town and have outgrown our charm. To quote a wonderful villian, "Progress for the sake of progress, is to be discouraged."
- "Telluride. Crested Butte. Glenwood. Steamboat.
- Everywhere else. "
- just another Ouray or telluride with all second home owners.
- Telluride
- Like Telluride
- Telluride
- Telluride. Snotty, expensive, entitled, and lose locals to seasonal rich people.
- Telluride, Jr. or Montrose Jr.

- Telluride, too much money and not enough hardworking true locals because they have been pushed out with money and greed.
- be like Montrose, telluride, Carbondale,
- Telluride
- Telluride...please don't go down that path. That town is chaos!!
- Telluride. Festivals every weekend, dozens of homes that sit empty 11 months of the year or get rented out for 1500 bucks a week or 500 a night to tourists, more bars, liquor stores, restaurants and dope shops, reliant almost entirely on pass-through traffic and part-time residents
- Telluride without the skiing.
- Another Telluride
- A second Vail or Telluride.
- Telluride
- The Pebble i.e a small Boulder. This means the exchange of the ranching community for an urban yuppie one where everyone spends their days on computers.
- The next Boulder.
- Telluride
- Another Telluride.
- Boulder, or Telluride. I don't want us to be that place that is like "we've always done it this way." Change is inevitable. But, too much change will change the character of this town. I would like to see less emphasis on rules, and more emphasis on reminding people how to be good neighbors and community members.
- Jackson Hole, Telluride, etc
- Another Basalt, i.e. a very expensive bedroom community for a more expensive mountain town (like Telluride/Aspen).

- Telluride
- Carbondale
- Telluride.
- Telluride
- Aspen
- Telluride or Boulder
- just like Telluride with the snob attitudes
- "More Like Telluride. Exclusive, filled with 2nd homeowners, city people, I fear it will be just another "cutesy Colorado Chic town" than is full of wealthy white people of unchecked privilege. Our land will be developed and the loss of spaciousness, quiet, and humility"
- Telluride
- Telluride, aspenated and something like Ouray is becoming.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Aspen
- Breckenridge or anything in the central mountains...
- Steamboat Springs or Aspen.
- Doubled in size and too much like Montrose
- Aurora or Telluride or Montrose.
- South Montrose.
- Mini version of Montrose
- summit county
- Summit county
- Summit County or Aspen.
- Telluride
- Telluride
- Telluride.
- I fear it will be like Telluride, consumed by the very rich.
- Telluride, without the ski hill
- down valley Telluride
- Telluride

- Too much like Telluride or Crested Butte.
- The new Telluride.
- Telluride with cows
- Like Ouray and/or Telluride
- Telluride.
- Telluride expensive for middle incomes
- Telluride or Aspen
- Another Telluride
- Telluride.
- Crested Butte/ Telluride
- Overpriced and overrun with tourists...spillover from Telluride has taken over the town.
- Telluride
- Telluride. Even more patriarchal. Wistful for the "good ol days".
- Telluride!
- Telluride.
- Telluride.
- Telluride
- A mess if the idiots from Telluride invade
- Telluride/Aspen
- Telluride or Aspen; where huge homes are consolidated in one area ( like Log Hill) and "affordable housing" is nothing more than a future "slum" area, all consolidated in another area. Focusing on working hard to have community parks and open space along the riverfront could help maintain the friendly community feel, rather than have a "rich folks" and "poor folks" feel.
- Don't want to be a Park City, Telluride or Crested Butte (and I used to love the latter two and considered moving originally to both and am glad I didn't).
- Telluride- all democrats (The extremist kind)
- Boulder Colorado
- Boulder
- Making a "little Boulder".
- Boulder.
- Boulder.
- Carbondale
- Carbondale, Colorado.
- An extension of Telluride
- Montrose
- Montrose. Telluride.
- Like telluride
- Like Telluride
- Montrose
- Telluride.
- Telluride
- Overcrowded and Telluride 'like'
- Ouray!
- Boulder
- Fear it will be thru a hugh drive thru to Telluride. And Quirky art not consistent to Character of a Mountain, Ranching town.

## Tourism

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- A tourist destination rather than a place to pass through.
- True Ridgway, what made it truly unique will be gone and we will be left with another overpriced tourist destination
- Another tourist trap.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Focused more on tourism than the residents.
- My fear is that one ideal of living will eliminate the need for the others and Ridgway will become a resort destination where the definition of community is no longer needed.

- It already is mostly tourist oriented. I fear it will have no character at all having lost it to forces that see growth as improvement.
- "Tourist destination for many. We will lose our small town feel Look at the many examples. Let's try to keep our small town feel. Town, not City. "
- It'll be an inauthentic tourist town clogged with traffic and with a string of chain stores, fast-food restaurants and hotels along the highway. Regular people will not be able to afford to live here, and many neighborhoods will be dark at night because of all the empty "second homes."

## **Q14: PLEASE DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD IN WHICH YOU CURRENTLY LIVE. ARE YOU:**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- single with many visitors and family during summer and holidays.
- living with partner and planning to have a family soon
- Living with spouse, adult child and grandchild
- living with spouse/partner and other adult family members

### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Living with Spouse and Elderly Parent
- Prefer not to say.
- I live with my wife, and our son when he's not away at college. We are currently living in Minnesota, full time.
- I own real estate in Ridgway but do not live here please see my above responses
- Living with Spouse and Elderly Parent
- Living w/ Spouse. Raised our two children in this home. They are grown now.

## **Q15: DO YOU OWN OR RENT YOUR CURRENT RESIDENCE?**

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Technically my parents own my house, and I rent from them. They bought it as a foreclosure.
- Sold our first 700 square foot house (mainly as row housing was zoned in front of it) and building another house. Currently renting.
- rent now but building to own

Q16: Which three factors were most important to you in choosing your current home or apartment? (select up to three)

- live with others and offer whatever I can to keep us all going...rent when I can, services when I can't

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Family owns
- Prefer not to say.
- Ranching
- Employee provided housing on a ranch
- I own real estate in Ridgway but do not live here please see my above responses
- Rent to own
- We are renting in Ouray but in the process of building on a lot we own in Ridgway.
- Live in a camper at the state park where I work.
- Live on the front range for now.

### **Q16: WHICH THREE FACTORS WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU IN CHOOSING YOUR CURRENT HOME OR APARTMENT? (SELECT UP TO THREE)**

#### **Cost/Only Option**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- We purchased our home during the foreclosure crisis, we were lucky to have cash and good credit and could get a loan when no one else could.
- It was SO FREAKING HARD to find an apartment here. More expensive and more competitive than Denver. But holy god, our view!
- There weren't any options really. We took the only place that was available.

- We had no other options. My family took us in. As it turns out, as they age, they can't do it without us.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Really this has to be a question! You get what is open if you can't buy.
- We did not choose our home as it was provided through my husband's employer. I would like to buy a long term rental in town for retirement.
- We tried like crazy to find a place to rent in Ridgway but nothing was available and settled for Ouray because of its proximity to Ridgway

#### **Family/Community**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Wanting to be part of the community.
- My wife wanted this house.
- Moved in to take care of aging family, and now it's our home. It's bought and paid for.
- family nearby
- where other family member lived when we formed family. Few if any attractions to location.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- family home
- Helping my parents
- My partners hone

#### **House Size/Layout**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- it worked for 2 adults and 2 children and we had few options in Ridgway that met our needs in 2001
- Had visited in the house



Q16: Which three factors were most important to you in choosing your current home or apartment? (select up to three)

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- lots of big windows, and privacy
- great layout

#### **Land to Build**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- We built it ourselves!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- built our home
- We currently own raw land in Eagle Hill Ranch, and plan to build shortly. Had to buy while we could afford it.
- Five years before I moved to the area, I had purchased a lot in Ouray County with the intention of building a home there.
- We built our home

#### **Miscellaneous**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Good location between Telluride, Ouray and Montrose.
- a note.....Air BnB's will destroy this community. It has happened to Crested B and other small mountain communities.
- QUIET
- Pets allowed
- Outdoor space for pets, small area to maintain.
- Having access to parking in front of my home as I have no driveway access or space to build a driveway and I live in a residential zone that backs up on commercial zones.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Location location location
- Sadly, Eagle Hill still lacks choice in procuring high speed internet.

- These are amenities I would look for if I were to live full time in Ridgeway
- I own real estate in Ridgeway but do not live here please see my above responses
- It is exactly what I have wanted
- It needed to be safe and quite.
- we hope to move one day to someplace with more land
- it has ditch water rights
- Being out in the country but close to town. Although, 25 years after moving here and being older and wiser, I actually believe in cluster development rather than sprawl.

#### **Natural Environment**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- The view of pasture and mountains is wonderful
- Mountain views and proximity to open space
- the location in these mountains!
- Great views
- It is beautiful and quiet
- Views/proximity to open space and trails
- views
- A home with a lot of trees for shade.
- solar gain/south facing and single story
- Views!

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- VIEWS
- The views.
- View, we wanted to live in the mountains and enjoy the scenery.
- Seclusion, quiet, view, access to trails and outdoor activities.

Q19: If you answered yes to the previous question, what was the primary reason you had to move? (select all that apply)

- Being situated in a beautiful mountain setting with clean air and water and nearby recreational activities.
- Mountain views from my windows
- unobstructed views
- Having easy access to the outdoors and nature
- View - wow, can't believe that wasn't on the list!
- The view
- View
- Close to the mountain trails and outdoor recreation opportunities that I enjoy
- Mountain view is a must
- Views
- Views
- Mountain Views
- 1.Mountain and valley vistas. 2.Flexibility to do what we want on our own property.(within planning rules of course.)
- The location, in a beautiful valley several miles outside of Ridgway
- Gorgeous mountain views and away from the noise and traffic of town.
- Views & location
- Being able to walk on trails right outside my door.

### Off-Grid/Alternative Living

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Living off the grid
- Want to live in off grid home
- Own an Airstream at Ridgway State Park

### Q19: IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, WHAT WAS THE PRIMARY REASON YOU HAD TO MOVE? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Bet you saw this coming, Kari Wage totally screwed us. She illegally snaked a home we were going to buy in town at the last second (purchased it for \$100 more than what we were nearly under contract for). Then put the house we were renting up for sale (said she was going to rent it for five more years). Tried to sell it to us for \$100,000 more than she bought it for 8 months prior. That woman needs her real estate license revoked.
- Had to move to give our kids a better school experience!
- One place sold, while another flooded and I had to move due to major damage.
- sold my house
- Wanted to live on my own and friends needed help with finding a person to watch their house.
- Although I haven't moved in 8 years I want to give input on this topic. Since I have lived in Ridgway I have moved MANY times, due to bad apartments, noisy neighbors, owners lost home to foreclosure, lost job, lost roomies and could not afford rent.
- wow ... this is a biased set of reasons. I chose to move for reasons completely unrelated to the reasons listed above. My choice.
- FYI I did not answer yes to the previous question so I didn't complete the question.

- Voluntarily sold house to get rid of high mortgage and to downsize by moving into current home we already owned. We were lucky to have bought it years ago when still affordable.
- Our family sold our home and we are now renting while we build a new home
- The zoning was/is changed across from our house to allow row housing with limited view corridors.
- We rented and rent went up 45% so we luckily found a place to buy after a few months.
- Rent recently increased (in less than one year) by 20%. Outrageous
- Built new home
- HOA fees
- Moved from Montrose
- We rented when we first moved to Ridgway while searching for a lot and then building a house. Moved when the house was complete.
- Sold one and moved into town to a house we purchase in 2002.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Owner put property up for sale, which triggered our decision to buy instead of rent.
- NA, but trying to move in with limited availability of housing.
- We made an extension, so while they finished we had to leave 4 months out of the house
- We couldn't find a home, so we were in a short-term situation.
- Job outside Ouray County
- Built a home.
- Taxes doubled and could not afford the increase
- 4 years ago

- We owned a 2nd property in Ridgway & the zoning and HOA were a mess, so we sold it and just lived in primary home
- Chose to move here from outside the county
- Built home in elk meadows bc it was more affordable up there but county road 5 is AWFUL
- Built a new home

### **Q21: IF YES, WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU PLAN TO MOVE?**

#### **Building a House**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I own a lot and want to build. Am renting in the meantime.
- We plan on building affordable housing to a lot we own in town. We will have to live in one of the units since we plan on building 2 ADUs and 2 smaller homes.
- Building a house on a lot we own.
- Build an ADU to live in on property that I own
- Will be moving into house I am building
- Hopefully I will be done remodeling the house I own by then and I'll move into it.

##### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Building and moving TO Ridgway in this timeframe.
- Building a house
- We are in the planning stages of building our home on a lot we own in Ridgway. Hopefully we will have it done in the next couple of years and will move into it then.

## Cost of Living

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Depending on the way things grow, we are exploring trying to find a more affordable small town or taking an opposite approach and moving to a larger town where there are more employment opportunities. We are finding it difficult to make ends meet and we are in our fifties! Previously it didn't matter as much as we live in a beautiful area with lots of friends (who were also in our same predicament). We had a quality over quantity mindset. But as more and more people with money and means move in, we feel in the minority and economically poorer...lower class financially speaking. The quality is deteriorating somewhat. That sounds harsh. I still think Ridgway is a wonderful place but as a professionally employed Ridgwayian my pay is not going up with the cost of living. Our utilities are over \$200 a month for each of our units (we have a duplex and live in one unit). Our rental is less than 500 sq feet yet we pay the same in water, sewage, trash as for a 3 bd 2 ba single family home.
- we will probably have to turn our house into a vacation rental and move somewhere the grocery store, gas station, and restaurants can be enjoyed on our income level, \$30 for a burger and fries and beer is tourist trap territory, and driving to city market once a week gets old, I have nothing good to say about our local Market except for Will that runs it, he has been awesome!
- Actually , most likely our dbl wide house will be converted to more upscale house and garage apartment, equaling more income for landlord. Gentrification, from my perspective ultimately down scaling

the neighborhood in terms of it being a fun relaxed and diverse place to live.

### NON-RESIDENT

- To be closer to Family, and if it becomes more or too expensive to live in Ouray County.
- If Ridgway gets much more Gentrified and over-promoted (I'm looking at YOU, Chamber of Commerce), so prices keep going up and up, we might move. We need more tiny/affordable homes!
- Would love to live in Ouray County, either county or Ouray ridgeway but the job market isn't there. Housing is way too expensive.

## Growth

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- if the demographic (toward exclusivity) and population Ridgway increase we would consider moving
- Overcrowding. Noise
- "When I moved here, I knew most everyone when I went into a bar or restaurant. Today, when I go out, I enter an establishment and look for someone I know or has a familiar face.
- At some point I might like to find a place like that again."
- If we move, it will be to get to a more quiet, secluded area with some land.
- Noise and traffic.
- Too many people
- I could move within town to a single-story home, or move out of town to get away from the rapidly increasing noise, traffic, congestion, etc...
- The main reason we would move is because of the changes that are going on in Ridgway

- My neighborhood is getting too noisy and congested with construction, kids, dogs!
- loss of small town atmosphere, loss of views, and type of people attracted by recreational marijuana
- We are considering leaving the area due to excessive growth/tourism. It appears that the Town of Ridgway is more concerned about appealing to visitors to the area versus those who are longtime residents of the community.
- We may leave (with deep sadness) if Ridgway continues to adopt the values of privilege and exclusivity, un-thoughtful growth and development driven by profit and selling out to the "growth mindset" (that growth is what we need and want, which could literally destroy our precious community). There are few places (if any) like Ridgway in the US. I think is worthy of protection and deep consideration
- Town forcing commercial activity into residential zones. Unprecedented for Ridgway. Uncharacteristic for Ridgway.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- too much change and development
- Less people
- We would move if Ridgway becomes crowded with big city problems. We would also move if the school district is negatively affected by too much growth.
- I think that we all move for multiple reasons. First off if you are a (transport) Not a local! You are going to move again, it's just a matter of time, just like when they moved here. For the Locals, they most likely will not move because of the cost of our community, they will move because of the change, in most cases the changes are not needed.

## **Health and Well-Being**

#### **RESIDENT**

- Poor air quality here in Ridgway

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Need to live closer to Montrose for medical reasons
- As we age we may need to consider a warmer climate, lower altitude and smaller home closer to sophisticated medical care.
- Altitude medical issues related to

## **To live Elsewhere**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Want to live in Kauai
- Move outside of town
- Again, a somewhat curious and biased list. The answer is that if I move it is because I want to be someplace else.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Move to another state.
- Looking into a larger city with a much more progressive art and music scene.
- My husband and I may decide to become part-year residents, spending half our time in Ridgway.

## **Miscellaneous**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- No comment, I own
- I want to own
- moving from our accessory dwelling back to our main house
- If the town was able to put in sidewalks more people would be able to walk their kids to school, and bike to work. If there were more parks (another by the soccer field), people could enjoy more of the

town without tourists in the park. Please put a lot of thought into how the town operates. Also please help slow down Main Street traffic by putting up something green-like small raised planter beds (a box at each intersection) filled with flowers. It would slow down traffic, increase the town appeal, and encourage more people to stop and spend time and walk.

- out of sight and sound (and upwind) of any town where sharing of habitat with wildlife is being constantly eroded.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- My partner doesn't like driving Cty Rd 5 and doesn't like driving to most things.
- government
- I want to move back to Ridgway
- We want to move into Ridgway so we can walk or ride bikes instead of drive, to be close to what's happening so we will attend more often, and to be near people we can easily interact with.
- Unsure
- Climate change
- Want to move into an apartment or small home.

### **Opportunities for Children**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- If we move it will be for opportunities for our children in an urban area
- Special needs program within the school

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- I would like my kids to experience something else. New language, another country.
- Find a better school district for my kids.
- live closer to son's school and sports activities

- Better school district

## Q28: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST/MOST PRESSING ISSUES, CHALLENGES, OR THREATS FACING THE COMMUNITY OVER THE NEXT TEN TO TWENTY YEARS?

### Arts & Culture

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- The hideous art pieces around Ridgway...who voted on the piece next to the public restrooms
- music events the draw outsiders here
- Creating an artist community space.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Over Focus on Art district & Clinton street buildings & businesses

### Community

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Telluride Overflow
- Changing lifestyles
- Stop trying to be Telluride.
- Lack of diversity. Ridgway has become expensive, teachers for example, can't afford to live here. A healthy community is a diverse community.
- Loss of identity
- Second homeowners because they do not typically add to community.
- closing the door after I am attitude
- Maintain a supportive. Caring community
- People moving here and their attitude
- lack of diversity
- Inclusivity of diverse people
- "Progressive" thinking

- decreased diversity due to gentrification (wealth moving in)
- growth consisting of people that don't value the small size, the dirt streets and other informalities that now contribute to the town being so friendly and relaxed
- second home owners.
- Loss of character of the Town and community (due to growth)
- Liberal social actions
- Ridgway attracting one type of person
- A communal shift towards a growth mindset
- how to remain caring with the growth pressures
- loss of design identity---probably too late now
- Discussions made by community members
- Loss of "sense of community"
- Rapid population growth
- Loss of small town feel
- New residents changing the process of growth without having spent a few years in Ridgway.
- People moving in who want more STUFF in town.
- diversity
- Keeping character of Ridgway community
- Outside influence of investors who are worried more about their profit than what's best for the community.
- Community flooded by yuppies working remotely (most are nice folks but change the community for the worse)
- Lack of diversity
- Lack of diversity
- Maintaining small town character



Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Maintaining character
- Maintaining small town feel
- Lack of culture / multi ethnic diversity
- Culture/Quality of life
- Getting people to VOLUNTEER
- Diversity (let's make a town where people who aren't rich and white want to/ can live as well!)
- Keeping character
- loss of community
- Cultural expansion
- remaining welcoming of new people

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Religious growth
- Big city people coming in and trying to change the town with no respect for the people who grew up and labored in Ridgway.
- too many people moving here
- People moving here from big cities and wanting to make this a big city. Being afraid of wildlife and wanting them killed
- Retain the character and small town community.
- Change in the region's & community's character
- Threat of fire to our community (particularly Log Hill)
- lack of diversity in political attitudes and beliefs and unwillingness to see both sides
- crowds swarming roads and trails
- Absentee landowners
- Change to make town something the it is not
- Leaving the community's roots behind
- Big city folks unable to adjust to environment

- losing the small town feel
- a place for new people to connect, or people experiencing a new life stage - a support system, somewhere to look when there are life struggles, currently the 3 options that I am aware of are church, a close friend, or a mental health professional.
- Diversity
- Having an open community welcoming all viewpoints and lifestyles
- maintaining small town feel
- Community dissolution
- Maintaining our small town community culture through sustainable growth
- Lack of racial/cultural diversity - I miss interfacing with people of different backgrounds and think it reduces the creativity and potential for learning that a place should have
- Maintaining local atmosphere
- Retaining a sincere small town feel
- Quality of people
- What we have here is special- should be protected
- Maintaining small town feel
- change the flavor of small town

### **Economic Development**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Job opportunities
- Cost of living -- affordable grocery and housing
- How to provide economic opportunity for existing residents
- greed
- The most important and basic thing is to have food and housing prices that a



Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

family earning \$12.00 to 17.00 per hour, with two children can afford

- cost of living
- employment
- Affordability
- JOBS!!!!
- Making it affordable for people to live here
- Support for LONGTIME LOCALS and businesses
- Expensive tourist town vs. staying a locals town that's affordable to live
- high cost of living
- Employment
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Economic growth and opportunity
- Jobs with a livable wage
- Affordability
- Jobs
- Inability to retain & attract youth, creatives, given creative industry focus of development plan
- We need to create jobs so people can live here.
- Living wage jobs outside of just the service sector.
- Finding qualified employees
- Affordability (food)
- Development of businesses to meet community needs (not just tourists)
- affordability
- Cost of living- growth and development that keeps "normal" people out
- Keeping the town clean while catering to tourism.
- Fair business practices
- too expensive for "normal" folks
- Lack of quality jobs that are not service jobs that offer benefits
- Unaffordable
- Too many folks being priced out
- Working class getting priced out - we are a working class town
- affordability
- Employment Opportunities
- Becoming a retirement community
- expensive
- skyrocketing taxes
- Entire community being affordable except for the wealthy
- affordability
- Overpricing of everything.
- economic prosperity
- Weed
- population
- Lack of higher paying jobs with benefits
- Cost of dining and local food / groceries
- Population growth
- Becoming a bedroom community rather than a truly separate community
- Proximity to, and pressure from Telluride to become a bedroom and service community only.
- Skyrocketing real estate prices
- Singular employer (school)
- Economic stability, local employment
- Living wage employment opportunities, otherwise Ridgway will become a bedroom community for Telluride
- Employment
- workers
- Keeping the lights on downtown businesses

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- big box (chain) store issues - blocking them or encouraging
- Increasing tourism that will change the community
- Rising cost of living
- Increase in cost of living and therefore inaccessibility to lower income people
- Unsustainable Tourism
- Cost of living
- Entry of big stores and restaurant chains
- Increasing cost of having a business in town (e.g., increased rent)
- Cost of living
- Availability to affordable services (high quality child care, medical, recreational, meals, food, arts, adult education) in order to make the community inclusive; all can participate
- Industry growth
- Better quality jobs for residents. Most residents who do have to work while living here seem to be working remotely.
- Local job opportunities
- Staffing
- commercial and/or industrial growth
- Affordability
- Popularity. We've created a good thing and now people want to move here.
- Focus on quality rather than quantity
- Cost of living
- economic development outside of large residential palaces/retirement homes
- Becoming a Telluride suburb
- Economic development
- employment opportunities
- skyrocketing utilities
- Work possibilities
- making Ridgway accessible to a variety of people so we don't remain full of upper middle class white people
- Over gentrification This isn't Telluride yet.
- tourism growth
- Expansion Issues
- Creating quality employment opportunities
- Expanding only for the wealthy
- over-population damages natural resources/place/charm
- Shopping
- not enough jobs to live and work here
- the lure to become a destination like Telluride
- Employment
- jobs
- No retirement
- Overpopulation
- tourism
- lack of hotel rooms
- Bring back the City Market issue!
- Improving employment opportunities locally
- Increased cost of living
- Affordable rents for businesses
- Affordable rents for businesses
- minimal options for hiring staff
- dependence on tourism
- marijuana
- Having affordable food at the market. To be able to buy more in bulk , and not have to be forced to shop for food in Montrose. I would like to spend my money for food here and keep it local. But when prices for food are 2 to 4 or

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

more dollars an item, I just cannot afford that with 3 children.

- Improving employment opportunities locally
- year round financial stability
- Availability of basic services like affordable groceries, laundromat
- People doing everything just for money
- Becoming a dormitory community for Telluride. Growth of cheap housing for commuters going back and forth to serve wealthy Telluride may destroy the character of Ridgway
- Over population
- Cost of living
- employment opportunities and Transportation & Mobility
- Help the local residents by encouraging another grocery store to open to provide competition to Mountain Market
- Job opportunities that can pay the cost of living
- Too many people
- Marijuana
- Affordability
- affordability
- disproportional development of tourist economy

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Sustainability of businesses & restaurants
- cost of living going up
- Expensive
- Cost to do business
- Marijuana
- Cost of living
- sustaining small business
- jobs

- Economic-business development
- out-pricing the workforce
- increased cost of living
- Employment
- ability of people to make a living
- job opportunities
- affordability
- cost of living
- Cost of living
- Town becomes exclusive, ie Telluride
- Jobs
- Lack of diversified job base
- rising costs for public welfare
- Affordable food/shopping without driving 30 miles
- Jobs
- tourism
- Business growth (too much of it to a point where it changes the feel)
- Lack of employment
- Economic - very few job/career opportunities
- Job opportunities
- Increased cost of living without increases in pay
- Becoming telluride
- becoming like Telluride
- a balance between money/tourism/business and keeping the town more like a community (sometimes happens in places that grow too much too fast - or just bigger places) - part of why we chose the area is the smaller more personal feel
- Access to affordable, healthy food. There isn't an affordable grocery store in town, we must travel to Montrose to do our grocery shopping. The Farmer's Market

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

helps but is not year round or convenient (only once a week). Mountain Market prices are outrageous, Family Dollar does not carry quality, fresh, organic foods.

- Don't let profits and money drive the plan for the future.
- Commercial Rents escalating-business & building buy in from Telluride
- influx of people
- affordable living - the balance between available jobs and income and prices for rent/buying somewhere to live seems unbalanced currently
- Lack of sustainable employment - sustainable wages
- Developing an economic base with job opportunities to keep young people here.
- cost of growth
- Too many people
- Lack of available workers
- Marijuana
- cost of living going up
- Locals forced to move because they can no longer afford to live in this area
- Modernization of our small town...don't turn this beautiful place into California!
- availability
- Lack of job opportunities
- Wages
- Lack of employment opportunities that match the high cost of living
- affordability
- Too many visitors
- Limited economic opportunities.
- Professional jobs
- Prices of everything going up for living
- Too crowded
- Restaurants close

- commuting to Montrose/GJ to shop
- Economy
- job opportunities not in the service sector
- Jobs
- New year round businesses recruited to our region.
- High cost of living
- Affordable groceries
- steady economic growth
- Keeping big box retailers out
- Employment without driving 30 miles
- cost of living
- employment opportunities
- Keep small town flavor, resist chain stores, restaurants.
- Labor shortage
- Overpopulation by humans
- Over reliance on tourism
- Too many people
- Affordability. Fast growth means higher prices, b
- pricing OC employees out of OC
- effectively managing tourism
- commercial exploitation
- Essential services, cost of providing
- to many marijuana stores . bad reputation cause loss of visitors
- Employment
- Growth opportunities needed for jobs/business, while considering managing amt of tourism
- Job availability
- Don't become touristy and a carbon copy of every other small town that out goes itself. Please!
- Over development & big box stores
- Drive on 550 to Montrose for shopping

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- extreme seasonality of customers
- Marijuana
- pushing out average families
- Jobs cannot afford to pay enough to retain adequate staff
- Lack of hard working, reliable employees
- Improve job opportunities so a wider range of people can afford to live here.
- Shopping options
- Bridging gaps between ranching and tourism
- employment opportunities
- More options for dining year round
- Sounds selfish, I know, but the amount of people realizing how awesome Ridgway is could really change the place! Ridgway has grown so much since I first came here 27 years ago to visit. My hometown in Mississippi has become kind of a hipster town and gained a lot of attention in recent years. There is a nonprofit called Keep Cleveland Boring that works to build the arts scene while ensuring that the locals feel like locals. It is a bit more complicated here as there is not much tourism in Cleveland, MS, but the idea is to maintain a balance so that the locals feel like locals and the town is able to maintain balance so that the town does not lose its charm, or its current residents due to the changes happening.
- employment opportunities
- life conveniences
- Managing growth for a diverse and balanced workforce and population
- Wealth disparity
- business sustainability
- Managing tourism - not discouraging it but not making it the focus
- Gentrification
- commercial opportunities
- Too many pot stores
- Retiree growth
- Cost of living
- Managing tourism
- Allowing big-box businesses such as Costco
- Cost of living gets even more expensive and only wealthy people can live here, more homogeneity.
- creating jobs for the next generation to sustainably live in the area.
- Dealing with population growth/ more people wanting to live here.
- An increase of money
- Cost increases that price longtime residents out
- increased division of socio-economic classes
- Cost of living
- cost of living

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- The Quality of schools
- Retaining quality educators in RSD
- Teacher retention
- Quality of education for the kids
- Education and access to meaningful college prep
- Lack of infrastructure necessary for sustainability - for example: no early childhood education and limited opportunities for other forms of education
- Educational opportunities
- Schools

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- education
- Lack of school funding.
- Schools don't have extra things for kids to do no real sports here football baseball only soccer and basketball
- education
- Education
- Maintain high quality schools and retain top teachers
- providing more quality opportunities for our youth
- The schools will fall apart from inability for Teachers to live here

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Poor support of public schools.
- public schools
- Strong schools, teacher retention
- School funding
- Improving the quality of middle school and high school education
- Educational Decline
- Extremely poor wages for teachers
- Improve and invest in the public schools to offer challenging and diverse experiences to students.
- Schools
- Route money to schools, better pay for teachers NOT city artwork.
- Educational options
- good schools for the children
- public schools
- Funding for our schools
- Education/employment opportunities to keep youth in town
- School quality

## **Health & Well Being**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Lack of child care.
- Unhealthy dust on the streets
- Early childhood facilities
- Child care, it is very hard for parents of young children to find reliable care
- Early Childhood Education/Daycare
- Substance abuse
- Improved availability to affordable healthcare
- Crime
- Childcare
- Improved access to quality medical care
- Affordable groceries
- Grocery stores are very expensive here you need to go to Montrose to get your groceries
- Keeping quality health care in Ridgway
- Affordable food
- Health care
- Crime and drug abuse
- price of groceries are too high at Mt. Market forcing us to go to Montrose for shopping. I much rather would shop here.
- Day care
- protection of natural resources & local food production
- Child care
- Drug use
- what is available to aging seniors? (to reduce isolation and assist with needs)
- Lack of childcare options for young children
- need for more health services
- Aging population with limited support services

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Youth drug use and exposure
- Affordable groceries
- Affordable childcare
- decent grocery store
- Quality health care
- Childcare
- Poor access to medical care.
- Affordable grocery store
- Price/ quality of food at our market
- Health care
- shortage of affordable food and services
- Grocery options too \$\$\$. We go to Montrose once a week.
- Child care
- Childcare
- Increasing crime

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Lack of child care
- Drug use
- The drug influence and it's attracting an unemployed crime prone population
- Daycare
- Health care insurance costs
- Drug culture affecting the youth
- Child care
- Food availability
- quality child care
- Affordable grocery
- Childcare! I have 3 small children and I work full time. Every day during the summer all 3 of my kids are in different places and from off and pickup are at different times. I pay make good money, but my entire pay check goes to paying for childcare in the summer!
- Affordable food
- childcare

- lack of affordable health care
- health care/aging care
- Proliferation of Marijuana and processing/grow facilities
- Continued lack of child care.
- Lack of close medical emergency services and travel time to hospital.
- health care
- Lack of affordable food
- Childcare
- Heroin and Meth
- child care
- Increased crime from overcrowded spaces
- Activities for kids
- food
- Affordable groceries. Mountain Market is way too expensive.
- Mental health resources
- crime
- Access to affordable health care services
- Health care (emergency ER) is none
- The convenience is cheaper than the grocery store, for food.

#### **Historic & Cultural**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Protecting ranching and open spaces
- Loss of Character
- Loss of ranch land
- Loss of small town lifestyle
- Loss of small town lifestyle
- loss of town's character
- Retaining our Culture as a Farm/Ranch community
- losing agricultural roots/history of town and losing agricultural opportunities as way of life

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Loss of ranching and farming influence
- protecting the quiet, small town, humble nature of our town
- Preservation of ranch land

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Ensuring that we embrace and support our historic and traditional economies (ranching, farming, mining) rather than alienate them
- Loss of history of community
- Loss of historic roots
- Lack of respect for traditional values of ranchers.
- Historical buildings
- preservation of rural character

### **Housing**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- The loss of affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Housing
- Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing
- housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- lack of rental options
- Rental Housing
- Housing for both public employees and private business employees!
- Affordable housing

- Affordable housing, especially for teachers and first responders
- affordable housing
- housing costs
- Affordable Housing, Homes or Apartments to rent
- Affordable housing
- Affordable quality housing- vacant second homes
- We should not feel obligated that we have to provide housing for future residents
- Affordable housing
- Lack of affordable housing
- Housing affordability
- Affordable housing/land
- No place where the average person can buy a home here
- Housing availability and affordability
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Gentrification
- Housing
- shortage of affordable housing
- Workforce housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing, which would promote diversity and an interesting community mix.
- Housing
- Affordable housing, not mass apartments
- affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Housing
- housing costs
- Housing
- Housing



Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- Influx of residential development, including the rapid rate and unaffordability for long-term locals
- Housing costs
- affordable housing
- managing growth and providing affordable housing
- affordable housing
- No affordable housing
- Affordable Housing. It is extremely difficult to recruit and retain quality employees year round. There really isn't housing for people working in the food or hospitality industries.
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Air BnB's
- The buying up of properties here by Telluride locals that then rent out their Ridgway houses to afford their Telluride homes.
- Too much high density housing
- Housing
- that we become high density housing for telluride
- Affordable housing
- Cost of Housing
- Rising Cost of Housing
- housing and living affordability
- Tasteful but affordable housing
- To many short term rentals. not enough long term rentals.
- Affordable housing
- housing and its affordability
- Affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing - Short term rental (too many)
- Housing prices for sale and for rent.
- affordable homes and properties to buy
- Affordable homes
- second home owners and property investors. Many non-residents or part time residents seem to be buying up real estate which takes it off the market for locals and drives the prices of real estate up
- affordable housing for those who work here
- Housing
- housing
- affordable housing
- Lack of affordable housing
- lack of housing
- housing for new families
- housing
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing for people who work here.
- More second homeowners moving here and pricing out families.
- Too many second home owners
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable Housing without becoming a "bedroom" community to Telluride where the workers live here but work, eat, shop, socialize and recreate in Telluride.
- Lack of affordable housing because people need to live here to be members of the community.

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Diverse and affordable housing to rent and own.
  - Affordable housing
  - Housing for moderate, low income families. (not single people looking to work in Telluride).
  - Airbnb's & Vrbo's
  - Unaffordable housing
  - Housing
  - too many second/vacant homes
  - affordable housing - jobs are low pay and housing is expensive
  - Affordable housing
  - Affordable housing
  - too much growth in high end homes that regular people can't afford
  - Affordable housing
  - Affordable housing for workers and their families
  - affordable housing- a fixer-up that lists at 300k!!!!?
  - Too many crappy houses being built
  - Housing
  - growth consisting of people who come here or just buy property here as an investment, not because it is a great place to live. This is the # 1 factor in making a community unaffordable for its residents, as well as less fun. People who are here for the investment are less desirable fellow residents (obviously IMO)
  - Rising property values, which will entice more people to buy second homes quickly.
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Affordable housing
  - Short term rental market saturation leading to long term housing shortages
  - Too many people choose to rent out their places to AirB&B instead of giving locals fair rental prices.
  - Vrbo
  - Too many VRBO/AirBnb rentals, not enough long term rentals
  - Affordable housing
  - creation of new residential spaces that will sit vacant like many of the other spaces now vacant that have been created over the past 10 years
  - affordable housing
  - affordable housing for locals - and those people should work in the town (first choice) and second choice should be given to work in Ouray county. affordable housing should not be given to people who work out of Ouray county.
  - Short term rental takeovers
  - Affordable housing
  - lack of affordable housing
- NON-RESIDENT**
- The Lack of affordable housing
  - Obtaining a vrbo only community
  - Affordable housing
  - Affordable Housing
  - Lack of housing options to rent or buy
  - Housing
  - Affordable housing
  - Affordable cost of living
  - The real estate market is inflated. It is not sustainable, and families are being forced to buy in other areas as they cannot afford to live here.
  - affordable housing
  - Affordable Housing
  - VRBO versus renting, too many VRBOs that prevent people from renting

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Affordable place to live
- housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Lack of housing
- Housing
- Unable to build duplex or triplexes
- Affordable Housing
- Housing
- affordable housing
- Housing
- Middle income housing
- affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Housing shortage
- Cost & availability of housing
- Housing growth spreading into wilderness areas.
- Housing
- housing
- affordable housing
- Need for affordable housing
- Housing shortage
- Finding the balance between affordable housing and overgrowth
- housing for service workers
- Housing costs
- Second home owners buying homes and leaving them empty.
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Gentrification
- Lack of affordable housing for rent and for sale.
- Housing
- Affordable Housing
- rentals too few
- affordable housing - it's ridiculous that so many working members of our community have to commute - Our businesses will wither and die as an increasingly vibrant Montrose steals our workforce
- Affordable housing for middle income families
- Affordable Housing
- affordable housing
- lack of lodging
- Not enough housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Cost of housing
- Affordable housing for young families
- Cost of housing
- Affordable housing
- workforce housing
- Affordable housing - without places people can afford to rent or buy except for those who have wealth, this place will lose its community feel and uniqueness
- affordable housing for individuals and young families
- affordable housing
- Access to housing for low-middle income families
- VRBO

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- affordable housing
- Affordable housing - not just for low income families but also middle class families
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Price too high for locals and average people to buy or live there
- Affordable housing
- Gentrification
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Housing
- affordable housing
- Housing
- Cost of living getting too high and housing so expensive that "regular" working people can't afford to live here. Becoming a community of second-home owners like is happening in Telluride.
- Affordable housing for teachers, public servants and responders & health care providers
- Affordable Housing without Subsidies
- Affordable housing
- housing
- houses too expensive
- Housing
- Affordable housing
- Available housing for locals - young renters
- Housing
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Housing
- The building of only large homes
- Too many rentals or second homeowners
- To many second and third homes
- vacant homes/short term rentals/absentee landlords
- lack of affordable housing
- Too many renters and not enough land owners to vote on pending important issues.
- Affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Short term stay facilities
- housing - quality and affordability
- Housing (rentals)
- out-pricing itself for affordability
- affordable housing
- Developing housing for people with modest incomes
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing
- affordable housing

## Infrastructure & Public Services

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- high speed fiber optic internet
- Infrastructure
- High speed internet options; allows for more work at home options, the current provider has high speed dsl, which does not compare to fiber
- Lack of decent internet (Century Link Sucks)
- Cost of developing Town infrastructure
- antiquated Sewer plant in the middle of the city

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Internet
- Increase size of the library!
- Broadband
- Overpopulation for infrastructure, roads, etc
- broadband internet access
- Internet
- utility systems strain
- quality internet
- dirt streets with no curb or sidewalks
- continued paving of streets.
- Paving streets and then people speeding
- Street repair
- Lack of paved sidewalks (accessibility)
- Municipal infrastructure , water, waste water treatment
- Street paving/infrastructure which would decrease the dirt and dust issues
- town infrastructure to accommodate (inevitable) growth
- infrastructure/sewer/keeping up with growth
- Continuing beautification efforts to pave streets, create lovely green space, paths, etc.
- Increase in population/traffic, pressure on resources (water, sewer, traffic, parking, parks, trails), decreases quality of life and environment in Ridgway
- Paved streets
- insufficient public services & infrastructure to support growth
- Keep watering costs down
- quality high fiber optic/internet speed
- We need to stop using magnesium chloride on the unpaved roads. It is caustic to people, animals, cars, and the environment. The town decided not to

pave all the roads, that is what it is. It is unfair to people who live in unpaved areas to have to be subjected to harmful chemicals!!!!!!

- Street Sweeping (or lack of)

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- paving streets and sidewalks
- Infrastructure
- infrastructure - roads, utilities, sewer etc
- Wasteful town improvements ie pavement, street lights, benches no one use, sidewalks, etc
- Quality licensed child care
- paved streets
- Broadband
- Fiber or high speed internet access
- Infrastructure (paving, sidewalks, accessibility, water)
- reliable high speed internet at an affordable price.
- Technology (internet speed)
- Cost & maintenance of public services
- Road improvements
- Internet access (speed) both inside and outside the town
- Paving more streets in town and business parking lots.
- High speed internet
- Internet we need fiber
- City Services
- high speed internet
- Infrastructure
- Infrastructure preparedness to support future growth.
- Infrastructure.
- not enough paved roads (pave Cty Rds 5 and 1 and Solar Ranch)

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Inadequate road maintenance budget
- Access to reliable high speed internet for everyone that wants it
- Elderly activities and services
- government services keeping up with population

## Land Use & Built Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Expanding too quickly.
- growing too fast
- Growth and development
- Growing too fast without proper oversight.
- Growth
- Unregulated development
- Pressure to grow and expand
- Pressure to grow and expand
- Growth
- Growth
- growth - allowing reasonable growth without changing the character of the town
- planning for growth
- Overdevelopment.
- managed growth
- Managing growth including short term rentals in order to cultivate involved, year round resident community
- Growth
- growth
- overgrowth
- Town planning and development measures
- Real estate speculation
- Over population
- Overbuilding
- over development
- Responsible development to not lose the current character
- developing in a sustainable and thoughtful way
- artificially created housing shortage, too much regulation
- balance between affordable housing and too much development
- Growth control
- Growth that changes the fundamental nature of the town and surroundings.
- Too much growth
- too much growth in general
- Too much, too fast and environmentally damaging growth
- Irresponsible growth driven by non-local developers
- Responsible growth (and not overgrowth)
- Growth (outside the current Town boundaries)
- sprawl
- Clean up trashed homes on Sherman and Hyde
- too much growth
- Over development
- Growth that is sustainable for our community values
- Growth that is sustainable and measured
- Over development
- I fear too much growth. I am opposed to promoting growth in population.
- Sustainable growth/potential for too much growth too fast
- Growth and lack of Town resources to accommodate growth
- smart growth
- Urban Sprawl, open space development
- Fast unsustainable growth

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Unchecked development and rising prices.
- Growth
- too much expansion
- The need to balance growth on both east and west of Hwy 550. For example the new planned high density low cost housing on Redcliff Dr. highlights the need to not have all new high density growth east of 550. Avoid the "other side of the tracks" perception, keep the town cohesive.
- Increased land values due to second home ownership, departure of ranching and farming, etc
- population growth.
- growth: housing, schools, Transportation & Mobility
- Too much growth too fast
- Housing sprawl as ranches are replaced with development
- Too much growth
- Just do a cleanup of what we have and establish some covenants for neat neighborhoods with regular maintenance.
- Lack of growth to support our community
- Managing growth
- Excessive Growth
- Random growth without a vision of cohesiveness
- Too much growth
- growth
- Growth
- Rapid growth. People fleeing the densely populated areas like the Front Range
- Overdevelopment
- growth - we are perfect the size we are now. the town and chamber should not be promoting people to move here
- Land Management
- eliminating growth based assessment of economic well being
- Growth
- How to integrate growth successfully
- Adverse development eg: poorly designed mobile home parks
- Adverse development eg: poorly designed mobile home parks
- responsible growth
- Becoming too large
- Growth
- costs to build are skyrocketing due to increased regulations
- Loss of land by development
- Growth
- encroachment of commercial projects into residential space threatening the historic houses that have little or no space for parking as it is
- Trashy properties - The appeal of Ridgway would improve immensely if we didn't have so many trashy properties on Sherman
- poor mix of residential/commercial/industrial development
- lack of control over the type of growth.
- Make the "core" more dense, taller. Encourage more, and more dense, development in the core. Create a real downtown = 4 stories +
- growth
- Cost of developing and building for private parties
- Don't let developers take advantage of the town, then disappear after they've made their money. Smart rules for growth and strict enforcement will help.

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Downtown growth
  - Growth that forgets it's locals.
  - Growth and town management, not respecting private property
  - density in town
  - Growth
  - growth
  - Expanding the retail/service business sector of downtown
  - Sprawl
  - Managing growth to keep the sense of place intact.
  - Maintaining a compact built form that allows for focused growth with eye toward needs in the very long-term (i.e. 50+ years)
  - There are trailers and old cars parked all around us. It is embarrassing. Let's get some of this ugly stuff off of the streets.
  - Avoid additional "annexes," avoid horizontal sprawl.
  - Community appearance (junk vehicles, trash, homes/fences/yards not attained.
  - Smart Development
  - Commercial zones need their own parking, Not in residential areas.
  - Excessive costs and processes administering the community - both governmental and homeowner wise
  - Old town Ridgway housing standards
  - Commercial zones need their own parking, Not in residential areas.
  - smart growth
  - Encouraging too much growth
  - becoming PEBBLE
  - Too rapid change
  - Overpopulation
  - Allowing growth that doesn't hurt community cohesiveness
  - Responsible growth
  - Over growth, traffic
  - Managing Growth
  - Too much growth
  - Too fast of growth
  - community planning - roads, housing and infrastructure
  - Unchecked growth and development
  - well executed growth
  - Building/sprawl outside downtown core
  - Government assumption that growth is necessary, essential
  - Growth
  - Overdevelopment of town
  - Over development
  - Too much expansion
  - Well managed growth. I am from an area with 4x population growth in 15 yrs. It's still a nice place.
  - Carefully planned growth
  - excessive growth
  - Growth
  - unchecked development
  - Too much growth
  - residential commercial interface
  - sustainable growth
  - Managed growth and its appearance to coincide with current western town style
  - Uncontrolled growth
  - Increasing density
- NON-RESIDENT**
- Keeping the small Southwest railroad and ranching town feel. (Why modern art?)
  - growth
  - Zoning



Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Rampant increase in population
- Growth with character
- Development of land
- Growth heedless of “sense of place” and quality.
- I think the town needs reasonable growth with protection of property rights
- Maintain Ridgway how it is
- Loss of rural small town character
- growing beyond ability to maintain the present quality of life
- Growth
- Overdevelopment. Trying to mimic Telluride, etc
- Responsible growth - allowing for it without harming the character of the town
- over-development w/o considering the need for open space and wildlife needs
- smart growth
- Growth
- Losing our small town character. Growing too fast. Not making growth pay its way. The danger of giving in to developers and folks shouting about "property rights" and not having the political will to insist on "smart" growth.
- Growth
- Controlled growth, water management
- Incorporating the ranching/ag community
- Growth
- Conservative growth
- Planned Growth
- Controlling development, chains etc...
- Subdividing ranch properties
- Ridgway gets too big and loses its charm.
- Community building plan
- Growth not done in a comprehensive manner
- Protecting the valley floor -- avoiding a situation in which beautiful ranch land is broken up into housing plots
- Restrictive rules and regulations affecting housing
- manage growth responsibly
- Building/sprawl outside downtown core
- working hard to not become like Telluride, with no parking or parks
- Development
- excessive development
- Squeezing out space (including parking) in town so that current residents are negatively impacted by tourists and proposed, new high density residential structures
- Growth
- overdevelopment
- Too much density seems to be the desired goal
- Good zoning, building density
- Over development
- Construction in the Alpine Zone
- Managing growth - it is important that Ridgway maintains its identity and unique charm - it is one of its most valuable assets
- Unmanaged growth
- Overcrowding
- Poor development plans
- Growth
- Development (loss of open land)
- getting rid of eyesore residences and buildings
- Carefully oversee the development of Pleasant Valley

- Getting too big.
- Growth
- Land use
- Building/sprawl outside downtown core
- anything over two stories - it blocks the views for everyone else.
- Failure to consider that growth is not a moral mandate
- Adding commercial use and keeping it in the town center.
- Sustainable growth (traffic)
- Unmanaged growth
- Farming land turned into subdivisions

## Local Government

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- too much influence from new residents just because they have more money
- Ridgway becoming more involved in county issues. The tacit agreement of the IGA is that we, Ridgway accept growth (residential/industry/ commercial) in exchange for the county managing our land to keep it more rural with a working landscape. In large part, Ridgway does not get involved at a public level. Huge mistake in my opinion.
- Uncontrolled growth, which may push dedicated and established community members out
- People driving the wrong way on Lena and the cops not caring at all
- Participation by the tax payers in the town government
- political issues moving too far left of center
- Too much government, too many rules, property rights
- cost of government rising

- Need more regulation on 420 and drinking at town/park events
- Educate and enforce leash law
- Too many rules and regulations
- loss of private control
- Town Council implementing their own agenda
- Less dictation from the town on garbage cans and recycling containers. Enforce compliance but don't penalize all.
- dog ordinances
- counselor
- Expansion of local government and corruption in the form of cronyism.
- Leash laws not enforced
- Incompetent Police
- Leadership that push their personal agendas and desires over that of the community at large.

### NON-RESIDENT

- Rampant growth of marijuana business and their control and influence on local politicians and politics
- government control
- Trying to please everyone
- Assumption that we must accommodate everyone's needs and desires
- Favoritism towards wealthy second home owners and not stable locals
- Safety
- rising costs to support government (due to adding services that are unnecessary)
- Government
- Political issues
- Political unrest leading to overall global economic instability and the possibility of a complete overhaul of our political and economic system

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- lack of hwy patrolmen to decrease hwy accidents

## Natural Environment / Sustainability

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Climate Change
- traffic and associated noise/air pollution increasing with larger population and more visitors both in Ridgway and surrounding towns
- Climate change and its impact on the health of our natural environment (extreme weather patterns). )
- Pine beetle kill / wildfires / drought
- WATER, WATER, WATER!
- Water supply
- Water for a growing population
- Climate Change
- water availability
- Environmental challenges: too many cars, trucks, everywhere pollution of many types.
- Water shortage
- Water
- Drought
- Climate Change
- Climate change
- Sustainability/water
- Water
- Water
- Water
- Extreme weather conditions, especially drought
- Water in the reservoir
- The environment (its impact on tourism)
- Preserving the environment
- sustainability
- Environmental Issues
- water shortages and fire
- water - There is not enough water to sustain the growth
- What we have no control over, the environment, lack of snow, water, fires, smoke in the air. etc
- Maintaining dark skies
- water/climate changes
- Climate issues - water, wildfires, vegetation health
- Global warming
- Water supply. Climate change (for whatever reason - it needs addressing regardless). Lack of snowpack storage / faster runoff leading to summer water shortages. (Made a bigger issue as the town grows)
- Water availability
- Waste production
- Environmental protection
- water, if the population grows too much I worry about water
- dark skies - do not install anymore street lights, leave the town the way it is. the town should enforce the current dark sky regulations when people have lights on their homes that do not comply.
- water issues if continued drought
- Water
- Air quality
- Water for citizens
- Noise, pollution, crowding
- Water resource issues
- Water for citizens
- Diminished Water Supply

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- Water. People living in this region need to be more conscious of and frugal with water use.
- Water issues. Health of River Environment
- Destruction of wild life habitat
- Plastic bags
- Climate change
- Protect our unique and beautiful dark night skies with and improved outdoor lighting ordinance, and obtain an official Dark Sky Town designation from IDA to help the public get a handle on this increasingly rare resource so they can be more likely to help protect it.
- Drought or lack of water
- securing additional domestic water sources
- noise
- Displacement of wild-life with additional development
- Climate change that will affect the natural areas surrounding Ridgway
- Climate change
- Insufficient water/Climate Change
- Water
- Fire danger
- Environmental impact of growth
- Environment (drought, beetle kill)
- Water
- fresh water supplies
- water
- Access to water for the Town
- Fire Danger, Drought
- Unnecessary killing of wildlife such as prairie dogs and bears
- Noise
- Pollution

- Continued progress to keep our dark skies status
- Loss of our local green spaces and night skies.
- Noise

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Abuse of our lands
- Revoking the Alpine Zone rules in favor of development
- Water
- drought/wildfire/flooding causing unstable tourism flow
- Water security (can we renegotiate our contracts selling Ridgway Reservoir water?)
- Water shortage
- maintaining adequate water source
- No water/snow
- River corridor
- Water
- Protecting the Alpine lands
- Water availability
- Global warming's impact on the skiing and ice climbing
- Water
- Preservation of environment
- water quality and volume-integrity of system
- Drought (water waste)
- mining pollution, waterways esp.
- It is important for Ridgway to preserve its dark, starry sky!
- Climate change affecting water availability, increased fire risk.
- Climate change - the impact it will have on the beauty and health of the environment here and surrounding us

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

- the environment -- fire and flood are my big concern
- polluted river running through center of town
- Manage development so as not to hurt the natural beauty of Ridgway
- climate change
- Fire Danger/Climate Change
- climate change and water resources
- Lack of water
- Poor vegetation
- Allowing growth that doesn't hurt our environment
- environmental protection
- Fire control
- Fire danger
- Water
- Environment (water, fires, etc.)
- Climate change / drought/ water
- Water
- Increased resource use and impact from possible excessive growth
- Ranching is taking water from our river and destroying national forest
- Water
- water
- Water
- Water
- sustainable solid waste management
- Retaining wild life corridors
- water
- water
- River water quality
- drought and water supply - growth could easily outstrip supply
- sustainable and contentious growth
- environmental damage by tourists
- environmental impacts
- Maintain environmental standards
- Water shortage
- Lack of concern for wildlife and nature
- Protection of environmental resources
- The town won't be as clean
- Wastewater.
- climate change
- water
- water
- Water
- Climate change and the challenges it presents for water resources, fire mitigation, etc.
- Climate change and wildfire threat
- Water conservation.
- environmental destruction
- Over running our mountains with too many humans
- Fire
- water
- Lack of water
- Wildfires, climate change
- Beauty Impact
- fire
- Natural environment
- Beauty Impact
- Sustainable renewable energy, and middle class economic system
- Keeping dark skies dark!
- environment
- sustainability
- nocturnal noise and light

## Parks, Trails, & Open Space

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Growth / maintaining open space
- Care of existing open space, trees (pruning) and greenways
- Connectedness to public lands. We are "fenced in" from public lands surrounding Ridgway by private land. Even the one road to Onatawanda is "no trespassing." We need to make walking/biking connections through or around private land and Town or County land, as so many other communities have done.
- protecting open space
- Enhance local recreational opportunities
- Recreational areas
- lack of open spaces
- lack of green space within town
- Outdoor Recreation
- We have no parks east of Hwy 550. We need new parks here, and also to preserve the east side of the river corridor north of the footbridge.

### NON-RESIDENT

- maintaining open space/parks in proportion to new construction
- active lifestyle opportunities
- Retaining open space
- Loss of community & natural spaces
- protecting our open spaces
- Maintain open space, parks, river access
- preservation of open space

## Transportation & Mobility

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- traffic
- traffic

- Traffic on highway 550 and 62 can be very busy and scary with pedestrian traffic.
- Parking
- traffic - too many cars when people could walk or bike and the traffic on sherman is already bad due to commuters from telluride and Montrose
- Public Transportation & Mobility
- Space to Create forcing commercial parking and activity into residential zones which sets a bad precedent
- Anticipate that traffic on 550 and 162 will increase and how to we deal with that
- Traffic on Hwy 62
- Traffic- it very hard to cross the highway at times
- Traffic
- Lack of adequate parking
- traffic congestion
- providing better pedestrian access and linking that to nature
- the traffic will be horrendous because the entire workforce will live in Montrose and Delta
- Transportation & Mobility
- Traffic/parking
- Too much traffic
- Cars still speeding through town on the new jetway, not stopping for pedestrians, or to take the time to see what town has to offer
- Regional Transportation & Mobility
- parking and overall traffic--the fact that the main street through town is also the highway linking to telluride is always going to be a problem. getting across it and onto it when you are trying to take a

Q28: What do you think are the biggest/most pressing issues, challenges, or threats facing the community over the next ten to twenty years?

left turn is already a problem and will only get worse.

- If we aren't going to create jobs, then we need a transportation system to get people to Ouray and Telluride where this is work, and thus cut back on car expenses for workers and on the environmental impact caused by commuters.
- Traffic
- Transportation & Mobility
- Available parking for tourists in nonresidential areas
- Congestion and traffic.
- Traffic
- Speeding through town
- The highway running through town
- Traffic
- Traffic
- Traffic / congestion
- Safety of pedestrians/residents on the highway
- Traffic
- Roads are being suitable for the growth, road drainage issues (ice in the winter), increased traffic on Sherman and side streets, and traffic violations (speeding) in residential areas
- Congestion, car traffic
- Encouraging density in town to promote walking, biking
- traffic
- Traffic
- walk/bike options safe for children
- Traffic is already a problem. Speeding, running stop signs, parking anywhere (by residents too) ruins the small town feel.
- Ease of access

- road safety
- Parking inadequate for growth
- Traffic, loose dogs
- Loss of parking around post office from markets, concerts, and dumb tourists

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Traffic
- Unsafe 550.
- Road Conditions -
- parking
- Traffic
- Streets and Parking
- commuting to Telluride for work
- Lack of parking
- Improvement of county roads, specifically CR1, CR24, etc.
- traffic thru town of Ridgway also unhealthy air from autos
- traffic passing through town
- deterioration of roads
- Traffic
- traffic
- Transportation & Mobility
- Poor Transportation & Mobility
- Unsafe 550.
- traffic on the highway
- traffic
- poor hwy maintenance
- Parking
- Traffic
- parking
- Condition of roads
- Transportation for people who work elsewhere
- ATVs
- traffic

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- road or highway expansion
- traffic
- county rds speed limit not enforced
- Increased traffic
- Continued lack of Transportation & Mobility.
- Traffic increase through town on SR62
- Public Transportation & Mobility
- Better county roads
- Roads
- Road widening projects
- Motorized traffic in the high country
- Traffic through town
- roads
- Traffic (although traffic brings opportunities, we've also witnessed how it can affect towns negatively.)
- Traffic

## **Q29: WHAT ARE THREE OPPORTUNITIES THAT SHOULD BE EXPLORED OR CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS THAT COULD HELP ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

### **Arts & Culture**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- a paid position for the arts organization for support of the town as an arts center
- Art District
- I love how Ridgway spends its money and energy on art, music, culture, and community based activities. This will continue to attract people with communal energy and a positive spirit, and deter those who would not contribute to our happy family.
- Creative and Cultural Destination
- drawing artists
- Creative district and the natural environment
- A Theater.
- Possibly added a creative space to the library expansion.
- Support for artists, minorities
- Redirecting the image of Ridgway as a Creative District opposed to a Tourist playground

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Art gallery and marketing help
- Proper auditorium/theater built at secondary school
- Reconfigure town. Make it what it should be. Mountain and ranching character. Replace benches with comfortable ones



Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

and character of Mountain, and Ranching town.

- Participation in the performing arts
- Progressive music, art & culture growth
- No more public art!!!
- Don't throw out the baby with the bath water by only pushing for growth & business but forgetting about the history & culture that IS RIDGWAY
- Space to Create
- Continued emphasis on creative industries

## Community

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Encourage people who want more STUFF to move to Montrose
- More people involved in city planning.
- accept generosity from community without fear
- how to make the whole town feel more cohesive
- An ever growing percent of youth and a high percentage of creatives identify as LGBTQ. Have visible public celebrations of diversity, particularly the LGBTQ community ie Pride month etc to demonstrate to young creatives that this is a community that embraces them for who they are
- encouragement of diversity: getting chambers of commerce, HOAs, unnecessary restrictions in all types of codes, etc. backed off to something more human friendly.
- this would also help attract a more diverse population
- unite around a shared vision

- Ensure Ridgway remains a family community
- Budgeting funds for local non-profit organizations to build on the community and a cohesiveness
- Listen to some of the old timers.
- Get as much community involvement as possible - hold numerous well-advertised meetings for public input
- Community garden
- inclusive approach
- Don't be obsessed with pleading new comers
- Community events
- recruitment of families with diverse backgrounds to live and work here
- Increasing levels of philanthropy among wealthy residents/landowners/second home owners to increase resources available for community development/supportive services
- Promote greater citizen involvement
- This goes hand-in-hand with affordability, but I think it would be just amazing if Ridgway were to make a concerted effort to make our town a Hispanic-friendly place and to actively recruit and support diverse residents who, in many cases, already work here and commute from the north. Maybe this means creating more Spanish-language community programming; increasing child care affordability and availability; promoting this as a sanctuary city, etc.
- Creating and supporting initiatives that foster community spirit, creativity and diversity.

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

### NON RESIDENT

- Define the kind of growth & work towards a diverse (economically as well) community
- public input
- Offering a warm community experience
- More opportunities for our youth to engage in community
- Protect what we are fortunate to have
- More joint events and festivals with Ouray.
- Tough...different cultures
- A democratic place that cares for and provides opportunities for everyone while making QUALITY and PRESERVATION the plum lines.
- Christians feel persecuted here in Ridgway
- Capitalize on area activities available in telluride, Ouray, Silverton
- Stay small and quality, maintain low crime, promote close small community
- Combining efforts/events for different lifestyles
- spiritual/religious opportunities outside of church - a pathway for other religions/spiritual pursuits - somewhere for people to go to connect spiritually. also maybe a general community location, kind of like the town or chamber or visitor center, but specifically for what residents need (vs tourists needs).
- How can we invite in more diversity? Need to plan to keep our elders and to invite in more young people, as well as making this a welcoming place for people of all races and cultures. We are very white here with a high average age. I don't know how we can invite in others

with the housing issues we have, but it's important to me.

- more opportunities for youth
- Encourage involvement of community members.
- Continue and enhance festivals and community functions like farmers markets, concerts, rodeo, car shows, etc.
- Create a more people friendly atmosphere.... not just a screaming shopping opportunity!

### Economic Development

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Limit marketing
- It's really attractive right now. We could attract a lot of new businesses and creatives -- but we have to find the balance of holding tight to our ideals (which makes it hard for new business) and making it too easy to ruin what we have
- Restrict chain businesses
- employment
- Attracting qualified employees
- job opportunities
- curbing of profit centered development
- supporting housing and business owned by full time residents
- Controlled but productive business growth
- Dump the pot shops
- Business/economic incentives to encourage a diverse range of business growth and job opportunities
- Loans for startups
- growth as a source of jobs
- Limit business!

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- create incentives or tax credits for new companies to attract companies that provide services that locals can use
- Encourage more affordable shopping
- tourism that promotes and preserves the environment
- Do we really need/want pot shops?
- Bigger businesses in the area to help lower costs to live here.
- Do not advertise the town, chamber of commerce style. This will only increase the rate of town growth and make it less likely that the growth will be desirable. Instead endeavor towards slowing down growth, because it will happen too fast regardless for the majority of town residents.
- workers--same as above
- This would also increase available employees
- Broadband, sustainable business development
- Enticement to companies to open up shop here and employ locals
- Small business support and opportunity
- Economic incentive packages to attract employers
- Openness to businesses
- Tax breaks to attract an industry?
- Attracting people who work remotely
- Prevent entry
- Living wage employment cannot be brought in by an MP, but it can identify that it is a priority and provide incentives in certain zones to make the areas more attractive
- Affordable groceries
- Creating jobs- the industrial park is full, it is hard to find commercial rental spaces, especially if you need large warehouse space.
- explore how to help retain/expand existing businesses and encourage new appropriate businesses
- Services necessary for people who actually live here need to be developed and nurtured
- Promotion of small businesses and clean industries to jump start local employment.
- Establish incentives for businesses that use a sliding scale for families who are less fortunate; Good Neighbor Fund like Telluride has
- tourism growth
- Affordability
- Weed is destroying our community it's too much, it need to be toned down, what do we want to be known for here. Signage, to many pot shops we lose more business's than we gain .
- Helping business deal with high rents.
- Increased workforce for those that can work in Ridgway
- Lodging and camping options expanded
- Economic development plan
- Improving day to day shopping in the town rather than drive to Montrose
- tax second home owners or property investors/speculators
- More dining and entertainment
- mandate no nasty box stores or chain restaurants
- Find opportunities for stable job growth and creation within Ridgway
- Jobs
- Small business development

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Encourage small business, independent, remote businesses; high speed internet will be required in order to promote economic growth and success
  - more planning for retirement
  - tax breaks for small business (non-retail)
  - jobs and affordable housing
  - Pro-business opportunities
  - Unsure how to address outside wealth from forcing/buying out locals
  - Luring something like a small tech firm to Ridgway which could provide higher salaries without having to import a large work force
  - Luring something like a small tech firm to Ridgway which could provide higher salaries without having to import a large work force
  - Keep chain stores out of Ridgway
  - attract and retail companies that can provide jobs and economic growth
  - job/business attraction
  - Since you allowed a Family Dollar maybe you can get a grocery chain in like Aldi or Trader Joe
- NON RESIDENT**
- Increased tourism
  - Employment opportunities
  - Right local business ownership, not corporations.
  - Support of RISD - buildings and faculty compensation.
  - Stopping growth
  - Keep big box, national brands & subsidiaries out of Ridgway
  - Defining what the town's direction with be regarding promotion for outdoor recreationalists, tourists and residents.
  - bring in sustainable businesses
  - attract employers
  - STOP advertising Ridgway its growing too fast and you obviously can't keep up!
  - Pump brakes on over marketing Ridgway to slow population growth
  - Campaigning to appeal to younger, more progressively minded individuals
  - have an inviting business environment
  - The very real legal ability to ban any more "formula businesses" (corporate chains) besides Family Dollar from moving into Ridgway. Check out the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ilsr.org). If we don't act now (as we tried to do in the past few years), we are just leaving the door open.
  - economic development
  - I would love to see Ridgway encourage small business. Some sort of outdoor gear manufacturer that could support 10-20 jobs would be great. Currently, the Ridgway economy is supported by construction, tourism, and some ag. It's not really a sustainable direction.
  - More options
  - How to encourage employers to locate in the county
  - businesses offer discounts to locals
  - lodging
  - expand business opportunities
  - manufacturing plant for 20-50 supporting employees
  - The attitude to promote a quality business environment is not good unless you are open to building year around business environment
  - Getting a hold on so many marijuana shops.
  - Promoted as a Destination location for skiing, biking, hiking, hot pools etc

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Good job creation \$15 hr jobs
- Encourage businesses to better support the financial wellbeing of good local employees
- A new, affordable grocery store. (Particularly organic food) Could be commercial store or a co-op market.
- Incentives to start a business in Ridgway
- Business growth that promotes jobs
- More industrial type business
- stop funding chamber of commerce efforts to promote Ridgway
- Understand that Montrose is nearby and we can get services there and do not need to have every opportunity in Ridgway
- Ordinances now to control influx of outside non regional retail, restaurants. Control size of new business. Could use more overnight accommodations.
- Ridgway has attracted a number of highly educated retirees and telecommuters, we should be capitalizing on their knowledge base to welcome businesses that are looking for people with those skill sets. Broadband will also attract businesses to the area.
- bringing in more commercial ventures
- Allow for "some" convenience such as a City Market
- An attempt to keep grocery prices down
- What are the impediments to creating job opportunities in the area.
- incentives to bring business to the area
- Resist industrial tourism.
- Keep the prices average
- Pro-business & development attitude on the P & Z & Town Council & Town staff not just lip service
- Repeal the law allowing "pot" shops.
- jobs in solar, wind, conservation, green construction
- Signs to promote business
- Build a dance hall. Offer big events such as Richard Rohr's 2 day events with big names.
- Buck the trend to be like Telluride. Don't become just another tourist stop. Be a destination. Let the rich and famous have their spot and keep Ridgway for average folks to enjoy themselves.
- creating jobs
- Tourism Money to draw more consistent customers
- Make it easier and more affordable to open restaurant and shopping business
- Stop advertising Ridgway
- Jobs
- Locally owned shops, stores and restaurants to keep the money home. Use New Zealand as a template. They want the mom and pop shops and corporations out. keep it local. in fact I hope you make it your motto.
- support business opportunities and grow diversity of businesses
- Actively seek hotel chains to build in Ridgway.
- How to increase business year round for bus owners
- Having too many retail marijuana dispensaries so the town is known for that instead of everything else it offers.
- Limit size and type of retail outlets
- Promoting local business, but not to the degree where it causes sprawl

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- employ people with opportunities in sustainable energy and digital information processing
- Ease of doing business with the town to start businesses
- allowing retail chains to open (City Market, Starbucks, Taco Bell, etc)
- better more affordable grocery store to keep shoppers in Ridgway & stop the Montrose weekly shopper
- Ridgway needs more hotels, preferably in the core (not 550)

## Education

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Educational investment in Ridgway schools, including teacher housing
- Promote wholesome opportunities for the youth
- Keep school simple and stop trying to expand and get teachers/staff from Telluride.
- Increased teacher pay
- Better teachers in the schools especially the secondary school
- Once again there is so much weed in the school's It is becoming our culture here in Ridgway. we set the example for the kids!!!
- Tax levy for increased school funding.
- education
- Education
- pay more and recruit and house teachers
- Expand access to university courses and advanced courses through online programs

### NON RESIDENT

- Better pay for teachers

- Continue to support schools, communal space and protect the natural environment
- Keep schools focused on teaching academics not politics
- Increase awareness about our school districts need for more money for teacher salaries.
- Build up the academic offerings at the high school (AP or IB) to attract greater numbers of educated professionals to settle here with their families.
- higher expectations of and investment in public school
- Affordable educational opportunities for adults sponsored by a public entity.
- Make it easier to open a private school or preschool (it is presently very hard)
- Schools
- I wish that Ridgway and Ouray had a joint high school. By combining resources these communities could create a better school
- Awareness

## Health & Well-Being

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Crack down on pot smoking areas....this is unfair two individuals that live here and do not smoke pot.
- Affordable child care for kids who do not qualify for 2-5
- Build a medical center. A good one, one that will bring people from all over the area. One that has good doctors.
- Opening of a high quality licensed daycare for infants to age 3
- Increased number of physicians both male and female

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- safety
- some financial support for child care facilities
- Please let us have a grocery store that doesn't make it as expensive to eat in as it does to eat out.
- Co-op grocery store for more affordable options
- Affordable grocery store
- Day care
- How to support and encourage childcare facilities opening
- Building new grocery stores AKA City Market, Safeway
- Grocery store
- More food buying options
- Affordable grocery store.
- Keep Mountain Medical in Ridgway
- Better grocery option-I get that Clark's is local, but they provide poor selection at outrageous prices. Think of the sales tax revenue from people stopping to grocery shop in Ridgway instead of driving through to Montrose.
- Better grocery store
- Expansion of medical facility?
- child care
- Promote senior citizen opportunities/activities
- Affordable childcare
- Pre school
- Better grocery store.
- cheaper food
- Not sure, but population pressures and limited social services for our elderly should be studied in the master planning process.

- Work with Montrose hospital improve access to doctors and emergency services.
- Incentivize child care/early childhood educational efforts
- Working with Ouray to evaluate options for childcare center that would serve the county.
- Local affordable grocery story

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- support child care efforts; infant all the way to high school
- subsidized childcare facilities
- Day care center
- Lobby the state for Medicare for all
- more affordable groceries
- daycare
- Senior housing, services
- Health type plaza, move health services out of tourist areas to help promote tourism and ease of health access
- Lower cost if groceries
- health care, medical
- subsidized location for a grocery store (so food is more fairly priced)
- I would like to see investment from the town/county into the childcare crisis. It seems that for many, in home day care is not sustainable. I know I could not run a business like that out of my home. The requirements for licensure in the layout of a day care facility is very specific, and (back to real estate) it is impossible for someone to find an affordable property that could be transformed into a child care facility. I would like to see similar efforts as seen in Norwood and Telluride to address the issue.
- City Market in Ridgway

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- health care availability
- GET RID OF MOUNTAIN MARKET I  
never support expensive food
- Provide more funding for childcare
- food costs lowered with better shopping options
- making renting a child care space affordable through town, county or grant funding.
- a genuine affordable grocery store, close mountain markup.

## Historic & Cultural Resources

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- maintaining the ranch atmosphere
- protect ranch lands and ranching lifestyle
- ensure opportunities for historic homes to maintain their historic character

### NON RESIDENT

- Use the Ranch History Museum and railroad as a living history exhibit with classes on how the oldtimers did everything
- Bring back and highlight what the town has been about.
- Restore our historical buildings

## Housing

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- We have such an amazing opportunity to follow in the steps of cities like Vancouver and build housing that is affordable, accessible, and environmentally and aesthetically innovative. Let's be creative and make Ridgway a model mountain town!
- Teacher housing
- Subsidies for rental housing development

- Having the town donate land for an affordable housing development.
- AFFORADABLE housing and high cost of living
- maximum allowance for low cost housing and alternatives such as tiny homes and intentional communities etc., as well as incentives for small footprints in general
- creative housing. i.e. small, a yurt park?
- Require low income housing and land ops not in separate places, but integrated in any annexing or subdivisions
- affordable housing
- town affordable housing
- Continue exploring ways to create opportunities for affordable housing.
- short term rental income and property should become a hybrid tax category
- Deed restricted housing (that is actually affordable) for young families
- Mandate that every 3rd housing unit be specifically for those with lower incomes or be rent-controlled
- build affordable housing (small, reasonably priced units to purchase or rent)
- Town should borrow money and build affordable housing. Rent would pay mortgage
- Deed restricted housing
- Allow only a certain number of new homes to build per 5 years.
- Affordable Housing
- Creating sustainable & low income housing projects
- affordable housing
- Investing in affordable housing projects to keep the community economically diverse



Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Create group solely focused on affordable workforce housing opportunities - Whistler is a great example
- Having the town donate land for an affordable housing development.
- Affordable housing options - CO housing or other opportunities
- Affordable housing land trusts
- Affordable housing
- Housing
- Inclusionary zoning to address workforce housing in new development
- housing
- County wide funded housing authority
- assistance or incentives for affordable housing
- each PUD required to have portion of housing affordable (not by mountain standards but by national standards)
- Create affordable housing
- Affordable housing development
- How to build affordable housing quickly
- More affordable housing for full time residents
- more midterm rentals available (between Airbnb and long-term)
- not sure: increasing salaries like school employees, affordable housing, interviewing those who want to move here to determine what qualities they will contribute to our community (ha, just kidding...my fantasy)
- Finding a revenue source such as amending Tabor to allow a transfer tax to fund affordable housing.
- Low income housing
- Affordable housing
- Allowing for smaller buildings and tiny homes to create affordable housing without making apartment complexes
- Be sure that higher density (or low cost ) housing occurs equally both east and west of Hwy 550.
- Affordable housing projects
- Limits on the rate and quantity of residential development, especially multi-unit housing. Deed-restricted housing (or something like it) to encourage/allow locals to live where they work
- Planned affordable housing
- More affordable single family homes (like the ones in river park)
- ADUs
- Low income housing
- Making it easier for developers to develop affordable housing
- Asking 2nd homeowners to rent out their care taking units to locals for a fair price
- affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable Housing, especially for teachers
- Affordable housing for young families and teachers
- affordable housing design that mirrors small town
- Create affordable housing
- housing
- Housing
- affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Changes in zoning or other regulations to encourage the development and use of diverse, affordable housing

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Housing expansion
- Set limits to short term housing rentals, and incentivize owners who rent long term for local employees
- Quality affordable housing
- Affordable apartment or duplex living. Possible co-housing opportunities.
- Affordable housing
- Subsidies for affordable housing development
- Limit square footage of houses and second homeowners
- rooming/boarding houses for age diversity -- young people starting out, older people struggling to sustain, seasonal summer workers
- Do not allow too many short term rentals.
- Continue to limit short term rental units.
- Creative housing plans, research other towns
- Donating land to develop affordable housing
- build housing that is affordable and that keeps the community master plan sensitive to design and aesthetics
- Affordable housing
- Allow more ADUs as a percentage of total housing, not a fixed number
- how much housing we can bring without changing
- grants, tax breaks for affordable housing
- affordable housing
- Affordable Housing!
- open up land for affordable development so "workers" can live here
- mix housing density rather than concentrate it
- Look for initiatives that could encourage employers to provide in town housing or other ways to encourage people to live and work within the county
- Remove affordable housing committee and set up multi-jurisdictional housing authority (could be Ouray County jurisdictions or with San Miguel, etc. Housing will become more of a regional problem over the next 20 years, so a regional approach is going to be required. Ridgway doesn't have enough resources (time, staff, money) to try to mitigate the issue alone.
- Figuring out how to build more small houses that could be affordable and then expanded when family's grow.
- Affordable housing projects
- co-housing & affordable housing
- Ensure Affordable housing, limit short term rentals to ensure long term rentals
- monitor housing
- Provide incentives to construct affordable quality housing.
- Preventing the building of more trophy homes within the town limits.
- Tax Airbnb's & Vrbo's for houses that could be rented. Don't tax vacation units if they are attached to a locals house for extra income.
- New residential housing should include small, affordable rental sub-units.
- Developing affordable housing projects
- Affordable housing development
- no more short term rentals/ accessory units
- Housing opportunities
- Promote affordable housing for teachers
- Affordable housing

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Do like the former Pitkin county planner suggested as a way keep property values down and thus perpetuate an affordable community for average working people (a long time ago) : have people keep a nice selection of old appliances and cars in their yards! As a countering force to rampant gentrification.
  - Development of affordable housing and amenities
  - Attractive affordable housing
  - Strive for a better price for rentals. There is no reason for HOAs to make buying completely unrealistic.
  - or for goodness sake, what's wrong with a nicely landscaped tucked in trailer park, if that's what it takes?
  - Affordable overnight stay accommodations. Very limited offerings currently and all are way over-priced for the level of service/comfort offered.
  - build rental housing around the grade school for anyone in the school district , teachers will NEVER be able to afford a home in Ridgway again unless they are a trust funder or a professional that has already made their money and wants to teach now
  - Severely limiting short-term rentals
  - Co-op housing? Maximizing units and setting aside affordable units.
  - home occupations
  - Offer tax incentives for homeowners who offer long term rentals.
  - continue exploring affordable housing that is not separate from our existing/new community housing where there is no stigma to living in any neighborhood.
  - Plan for affordable housing to maintain population of families, teachers, employees, young people, etc.
  - Affordable housing should be available for people working and living in Ridgway. Let Telluride provide affordable housing for Telluride. They may not want to but they can afford to provide it. Ridgway should be a vibrant community in its own right. Not a suburb full of commuters. Make it a requirement that people eligible for AHUs should work in Ridgway.
  - Development of alternative housing communities, i.e. tiny house or container house communities
  - creating more affordable housing opportunities
  - Again , create options for people who work, but can't afford rising costs of land and housing. Work with county to keep growth in towns.
- NON RESIDENT**
- Affordable housing
  - Building of condos
  - spacing out housing as much as possible
  - Work with landowners to create housing options
  - Sponsor land for affordable housing
  - Affordable Housing
  - Small homes
  - housing
  - town supported affordable housing
  - deed restricted housing efforts for employees
  - Build more affordable housing
  - Affordable housing
  - Let Telluride provide housing for its employees
  - Making affordable housing a priority
  - Apartments, Condos that service personnel can afford
  - affordable housing

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Housing
- innovative funding sources for housing development
- Look into co-housing. Create subdivisions that incorporate housing for all demographics, building micro communities.
- Plan and construct inexpensive, well-built, zero carbon footprint housing that fits into the existing character of the community, encourage cohousing and other affordable/sustainable
- Alternative housing solutions- more density, tiny homes, small homes, container homes.
- limit size of houses
- I am not sure how, but the housing market situation should be explored. Rental properties are few and far between, and houses for sale are insanely priced!
- Lower cost housing
- Housing for low to middle income
- Affordable housing.
- incentives to build affordable housing (not rentals)
- Places for affordable housing
- changes to fee structures, density etc - anything to make affordable housing happen; substantial mandatory percentage of affordable units in all future development
- Greatly disincentive second homeownership by taxing second home owners who leave their house empty for months out of the year. Work with developers to build more housing stock.
- Housing
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING!
- Allow smaller sized housing units below current 660 square foot minimum requirement. Allow yurts for full time residency instead of part time camping. Create residential lots for full time RV living. Bring back new affordable housing programs. Old affordable housing program is already too expensive.
- housing density, such as Portland, to keep cost down
- Affordable housing
- Local developers for affordable housing. if you bring the wrong developer, the rich and famous will bump the middle class out over time.
- have some nice apartments
- We may still have the opportunity to ban or limit the number of VRBO/AirBnB short-term rentals. We are now seeing the unintended effects of them virtually eliminating long-term rental opportunities for people needing affordable housing.
- I'd like to see the town really support affordable and alternative housing options appropriate to the town. The endless overlays of developmental restrictions really take the fun out of what could be unique opportunities for the town.
- Affordable housing
- support affordable housing efforts
- Nice, affordable housing just for school employees
- housing
- maybe continuing some deed restricted housing, employee housing
- less rules for building affordable house
- Provide incentives for low income persons to buy houses
- Affordable housing

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Affordable Housing
- Cohousing, tiny homes, keeping housing costs reasonable
- assessing affordable housing options
- Some alternative way that allows for low income folks to invest in housing
- affordable housing
- Control rental, vrbo, so many in Elk Meadows
- Create a task force to address affordable housing
- Live/work spaces, apartments, clustered units
- create a balance or maybe look into working with someone in the "little house" movement
- Town (with support of State and Feds) needs to do all it can to promote more affordable housing options for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Developing a plan for future housing construction, so that it is efficient and relatively condensed, as opposed to allowing unplanned development to sprawl across beautiful open spaces
- housing for older citizens
- Affordable housing
- Affordable/workforce housing to keep locals stay local and raise families.
- affordable housing
- Keep home and housing prices lower
- Housing
- Not all development needs to me high end. Not that we need apartments, but all houses don't have to be expensive with huge lots.
- Affordable housing
- Provide affordable housing
- Square footage of new houses being lowered
- Build affordable housing
- thoughtful housing, tiny houses + large gardens
- Affordable housing only available to those working in Ouray county, NOT surrounding counties
- considering short-term/vacation rental restrictions
- Create an intentional community somewhere, like between Ouray and Ridgway... only first time home owners can buy in... ?
- Tiny house acceptance in the code
- Encourage rental market
- Housing
- loosen limits to creating housing on lots over an acre
- Provide incentives for long term housing rental instead of VRBO.
- housing
- Don't allow short term rentals in town
- Create more affordable housing and employment opportunities locally.
- using a second home tax or VRBO tax to fund government services
- old folks living home

## Infrastructure & Public Services

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Pave streets in the town proper to increase the value.
- High speed internet throughout the town
- Pave the streets!
- Access to high speed internet
- The MP cannot bring in fiber but can address the items by requiring all new

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- construction and remodels with new power lines to install conduit and connection points for future opportunities
  - schools/preschools/library/continuing education
  - Install high speed fiber optic internet for home based business
  - Better Internet
  - Paved sidewalks in major cross roads
  - High speed internet
  - Make sure that growth does not outstrip our infrastructure needs. Current residents should not subsidize future growth
  - Paved (in town) streets
  - find location down river for sewer plan
  - Restrict water tap
  - fewer dirt roads/more street paving
  - paved roads and sidewalks
  - long term water issues and unfortunately tying the number of new housing, commercial and industrial permits to what can actually be supplied
  - Gender neutral single stall restroom policies in line with internal building codes and many major cities
  - Make any growth pay its way by providing infrastructure and addressing the consequences of that growth.
  - create a plan for finishing dirt roads through town
  - Build Dump station and charge a fee
  - Community Center
  - fiber optic - internet
  - dog park
  - Agree to only pave thorough fares, not side streets
  - Acquiring more senior water rights, mechanical wastewater treatment
  - Infrastructure / parking
  - Require that new construction pay into a fund for future paving to help reduce community costs in the future
  - Additional water rights
  - No more street scape. what has been done is great.
  - include planning for growth of public safety, public utilities, parking, etc. and the cost to deliver and maintain these services.
  - Maintain existing infrastructure
  - Snow plowing has removed large part of gravel road base. Needs to be rebuilt.
  - make it happen? I understand it is in place with Century Link but we are not able to use it due to cost? They need competition.
  - upgrade waste treatment plant; anticipate parking, roads, traffic concerns
  - Maintain good police force etc
  - Revamp water rates based on use
  - don't pave any more of the streets.
- NON RESIDENT**
- Expanded broadband to facilitate teleworking and other dependent economies
  - commitment and targeted tax/grants to pave streets like around the park and core. This was a huge improvement.
  - Improving the roads
  - High Speed Internet
  - Expand the library
  - maintenance of basketball court
  - Town-owned fiber optic internet - using Longmont, CO as a model, would make internet access more affordable and appealing to residents, focus on quality of life for residents rather than tourists, may

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- encourage new businesses and employment opportunities for residents, won't be dependent on the whims of a for-profit internet provider that likely values profits over people
- Attracting more remote professionals to area (need internet!)
- Internet infrastructure allows us to attract great employers and educational classes / institutions.
- deployment of (affordable) high speed internet to rural areas
- making high speed internet available to everyone
- Aggressively pursue broadband beyond what regional resources allow/provide.
- Don't be like Ouray, plan your infrastructure carefully (sewage as an example)
- Better high speed internet access
- Infrastructure
- maintenance of parking lot at basketball court
- Encourage development designed to be walking and bike friendly
- Attract reliable, high speed internet service
- Increased taxation for road paving& maintenance
- county wide broadband internet
- Continue to budget for street and infrastructure improvement
- fix the community bulletin boards in Hartwell park, so the sliding plexiglass doors work.
- Internet we need fiber
- Lighting for the rodeo grounds to encourage night-time rodeo events on a weekly basis in the summer.
- Don't..."pave paradise and put up a parking lot."
- begin exploring public works alternatives NOW
- Do not fall behind on infrastructure. Make sure all utilities including water treatment facilities are up to date. We don't want to be like numerous areas around the US who have neglected their water treatment and distribution facilities. Have a plan for future growth that ensures upgrade costs are planned for.
- Get high speed internet readily available here.
- getting fiber optics out to the surrounding areas not just in town
- Solar! We live in constant sunshine. We need to explore alternative energy.
- high Speed Internet Access - Fiber
- What is buried underground now? How will that have to grow as the community grows? How to pay for it?
- Access to high speed internet is a county wide problem that should be addressed through a combination of private and public cooperation. It will cost a lot of money.
- addition of separate pickleball court
- Work towards paving roads, our biggest source of local pollution is dust
- Sidewalks and curbing
- Pickleball courts, delivery services
- Keep doing so much of what we are doing, from infrastructure improvements to events to providing great opportunities to tourists.
- Roof solar with rebate or community based funding opportunities-no space needed-economic benefits

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- As roads are paved, dedicate both sidewalks and bike areas to encourage more walking/biking

## Land Use & Built Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Smart development, cluster housing
- allow growth at its own rate rather than events that draw people in
- Not growing beyond a conservation estimate of our valleys carrying capacity
- Density within the urban growth area
- requiring higher density residential in appropriate areas
- Greater density; you cannot have only single family homes on every block
- direction on how to grow for a small town
- growth contiguous to town
- planning and zoning
- Don't make more land available for development beyond what is in town limits or already platted.
- Evaluate approaches of other rural communities
- require new commercial spaces to include sufficient parking to accommodate cars that will come with that space
- Sustainable, slow growth should be a priority
- Areas designated for light industry and technology office space, to enable new businesses to move to town.
- Not place ant restrictions what so ever on home owners or land owners with what they may want to do with THEIR property, or litigate the crap out of them till they do what you want and make even the simplest things cost a fortune
- Limit growth by discouraging sprawl in the County and providing incentive to landowners/ranchers to maintain land as ranches/open spaces.
- Strengthen rather than weaken visual impact rules and zoning restrictions to preserve the character of the town and the beauty of the area
- Allow growth in a way that is not excessive, is sustainable (permeable street scapes for example, not concrete) and fits in with the historic, small feel of the town vs. allowing super modern, lot line to lot line type building
- Limiting the growth boundaries
- encourage development in in-fill locations first
- Limit growth- do it carefully
- develop limits on growth within the town, and adding more land to the town boundaries. protect our surrounding lands so wildlife still has accesses they have always had.
- Revise the building codes to make it simpler for people to build their own homes (e.g. remove requirements for architect and engineer for homes that meet UBC, clarify the requirements, perhaps produce a check list of required inspections, etc)
- Retain enough land zoned for commercial/industrial to allow for existing business to move/expand and new business to set up shop. To the extent possible, establish criteria under which residential would be allowed in areas zoned for commercial/industrial uses. A bedroom community is not a hypothetical, so allowing residential in such zones should have to pass a very high bar going forward.



Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Slow development
- Consider higher density zoning.
- Mixed use development and housing options.
- Set up a regulations on "spec" home building.
- Keeping the stringent oversight process in place for building.
- Controlled growth
- Protection of open space/ranching from being subdivided
- Controlled, sustainable growth
- open spaces/green belt (think Boulder, CO)
- State it clearly as a goal of the master plan.
- more regulations governing housing structures
- Mixed Use, Infill, high density development in town core
- Slow development
- Some new builds , housing developments, sculptures seem disjointed a more cohesive look and flow to Ridgway, it is starting to feel random with no direction or common look
- attractiveness of community
- Managing growth
- Limit development
- Allowing RV/Camper overnight parking at Fairgrounds
- lifetime Plat restrictions based on local cost of living factors
- Limiting building and population and keeping plenty of wild space in town
- Limit number of new building permits
- Careful zoning
- Create a resource to help people understand what it's important to maintain their homesites and where to go to get help.
- Slow down development
- We don't have to take every available piece of land and build something on it.
- Limit development to the town of Ridgway. Do not annex any additional land to the Town, especially the valley south of Ridgway.
- Prevent "cookie cutter" housing sprawl
- Limit industry!
- responsible growth
- flexible building schedule/rules for new lot owners
- I guess to be aware and try to control the way growth takes effect. Watch those 4 housing developments that are currently "on the books".
- Establish a strict criteria for mobile home parks regarding skirting, open space etc.
- Keeping/creating intensives for land to stay ranch land.
- signage
- Work with the county to build a master plan for affordable housing.
- Slow development
- land conservation easements (ranch/farm land, wildlife corridors from river to higher elevations)
- Slow development
- reduced interference in building to facilitate owner builder
- Working towards housing opportunities for people who want to live and work here and would be a valuable part of a thriving community. Making sure that sprawl does not happen and new developments are

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

subject to strict codes. A new Master Plan for development taking into consideration the stresses of what could be facing us in the future. Some areas devoted to parking so that people can park and then walk through the town to cut down on traffic.

- Establish community checks of some sort that curbs the unbalanced Master Plan responsiveness to wealth and influence.
- growth-probably inevitable
- Zoning allowances for people who want to open childcare/schooling centers
- How to keep Ridgway rural and grow at the same time
- zoning and partnerships to preserve open space and access to trails and forest
- Growth here is inevitable keeping design and planning that fits the character will be important.
- Work with the county to encourage land owners to allow grazing of livestock, protect irrigation water rights, etc
- Ensure development continues to pay its own way; don't allow leap-frog development unless unique circumstances warrant it; zone for diversity of compatible uses and avoid single-use zones to the extent practicable.
- Establish building and zoning codes to provide for positive growth.
- form follows function---if it does not function like the benches around town, it is joke---change is inevitable but it can be melded into the existing character of the town--- we cannot be all things to all people
- building height
- Buy a parking lot for commercial enterprises paid by business

- Encourage clean up and rehab of dilapidated structures.
- Enhance and enforce current codes. Require screening of storage in residential zones.
- Seems like housing is an issue, and curious about the abandoned houses in downtown. What's up with that?
- Smart development laws including shielded outdoor lighting and better home insulation
- Planning for growth and not sticking your head in the sand like the City of Ouray does
- growth should include density in towns and open space in county

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Reduce clutter on Main Street
- halting all expansion
- Planning
- Smart growth - economically prosperous and socially equitable
- New zoning or more building of duplexes
- Restrict irresponsible growth. Ridgway is not housing for Telluride
- reviewing other towns' growth/Master plans
- Zoning that allows higher density units
- Enforce visual impact rules
- Examining why there is rather basic zoning, but rather arbitrary approval/disapproval's of proposed plans
- working with developers, incentives
- Encourage high density housing
- enough development in the existing town boundaries.
- Maintain / expand visual impact, create space for development

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Restricted building permits: water wise
- Visual Impact, keep things Colorado
- Restrict new building to downtown core
- Regulate physical size, height, signage of new businesses in town
- Keep the town small
- a strong and sensible master plan
- Improved zoning and building regulations
- Limit development to a much slower pace
- Control sprawl
- Leverage the county's VIR's to the city
- Regaining rural small town character
- Standards and processes regulating residential and commercial development
- Building custom construction
- Well thought out development
- Thoughtful and cooperatively agreed upon growth regulations
- Bigger & more is not always better
- Stringent building codes
- Avoid breakup of large ranches into smaller parcels to preserve rural character
- don't allow development on current open space
- Stop trying to make it a "big town".
- Proactive plan for growth and use of resources
- We need more available building lots at reasonable prices. Where can annex?
- Control growth
- Acceptable Growth
- Control wild development
- Maintain quality in new or renovated buildings
- Building or architectural standards to raise quality of new buildings and city-space improvements
- Increase and improve greenery throughout town... consider xeriscape
- Planning
- Don't allow the size of the town to keep growing
- Revisit land development to ensure things are not overdeveloped
- Restrict new building to downtown core
- Keep our new development at a high quality level
- No more ugly Dollar Store type buildings
- Looking at overbuilding historic district with parking issues
- Keep our new development at a high quality level
- Planning geared to slow, sustainable growth.
- Growth
- Keep strict zoning
- Developing commercial area
- Enforce visual impact regulations
- Instituting housing density restrictions - perhaps this already exists? Or requiring larger subdivisions to also include open public space
- Maintaining our small town with such growth
- Resist sprawl onto agricultural lands.
- Annex surrounding land & future development to expand business and residential multi-unit zoning.
- Zone in ways that support affordable housing rather than 2nd home owner investment property.
- Developers contribute to open space when practicable
- Education and incentives for people to protect property

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Strict enforcement of codes
- I don't think we need to attract more developers/development. But instead work with small builders and small lots.
- Consider any or all commercial growth to be located East of 550/50
- Restrict new building to downtown core
- prevent subdivision of farmland
- growth management
- down zoning
- no building subdivisions
- Review the regulations that allow certain businesses in Pleasant Valley that are no longer appropriate to its primary value
- expansion restrictions
- Tax second home owners more to prevent Ridgway from becoming a second Telluride, Crested Butte etc.
- Elimination of sales tax.
- Crack down on 420 at park events, more cops
- Town leaders committed to keeping development focused on residents, not on creating a tourism hotspot
- the cost of regulations
- Partnering with local communities related to shared concerns (housing, transportation, employment, medical)
- Enforcing ordinances without having someone complain.
- Educating kids and having 0 tolerance with crime in town. Neighborhood watchdog system?
- Put out a mailing to all residents so everyone knows what leash law is . And be sure all rental units have information on this and visitors to the town. Information is not known to most people. Or they might follow what ordinance we do have. When is a dog park being looked into and promoted????
- Significantly increase property tax for second home owners.
- design government programs/support for marginalized segments of our population including the less affluent, young families needing child care, etc, and seniors
- Have more officers on duty and have them do something...
- Slower speed limits and police enforcement,
- Don't just try to be like the resorts. Find a different community "mentor" than CO

## Local Government

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Stop making stupid regulations
- Rescind leash law
- More realistic view of our government, we need to be like Ridgway not Telluride with exclusive rules
- better traffic laws
- Amend Tabor for revenue source- transfer tax for affordable housing.
- Increased sales and use taxes
- Employ talented town planner(s)
- Enforcement of existing town regulations concerning speed limits, noise ordinance, pollution controls, dog feces, etc.
- Impose fines if not taken care of. Inspector look at these, and take action
- Rules to govern smart growth and ENFORCEMENT. All the rules in the world won't matter without enforcement.
- Revisit and use the wisdom of the original Master Plan - that's why it was created

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

and Rocky Mountain resorts, i.e. small New England towns?

- Increase the presence of traffic/speedy enforcement; speed limit signs with the radar attached that documents the speed of the approaching car, increased police presence during high traffic times during the day, add speed bumps near the schools to slow drivers down.
- Only full time residents and they have to wait 1 year before sitting on any task force or committee.
- Hiring a full-time inspection of our town's books by a licensed auditor. Reducing town staff.
- Getting control of town government and controlling spending of the our tax dollars
- Conducting thorough background checks on law enforcement officer applicants.
- Transparency. Town leaders should clearly and publicly state their goals and visions, and be willing to support the community's wishes over their personal wishes.
- Stop letting rude, non-open minded, people to our town meetings. They are not helping.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Changing town rules to allow property owners that don't live in the town area to vote.
- Reinstate the "real estate" tax for all transactions (not sure of the correct name)
- limit OVR travel in our high country
- Reduce controls
- Immediate Term limits on Town Council to break this 15 year cycle
- Continued cooperation with Ouray County
- Educate law enforcement

- Press the State to change the law concerning distribution of "pot" tax revenue funds so the funds are not matching funds.
- Leverage the county's VIR's to the city
- Tax incentive
- public decisions
- government administrators who sincerely care about quality of life for residents
- It seems though Ridgway and Ouray have always had a great degree of separation. It is like a constant competition between the towns with residents of each feeling as though their town is better. I wish that Ouray and Ridgway could become for connected and collaborate more to address the issues that we see county-wide.
- try to help the community understand why there is so much staff turnover
- Higher taxes at the county level for better roads
- Manage city services so taxes do not skyrocket
- public choice
- government administrators who make decisions based solely on benefiting the public, rather than the system
- no more government

#### **Miscellaneous**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Probably impossible

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- not sure - just being mindful and present at each step, thinking each decision through and having clear intentions with all decisions that are made (what is the intention of this step? what are we

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

hoping to happen? what could happen instead? etc. etc.)

- Much of above has to do with population stabilization globally
- increased solar energy
- don't know-stop promoting people to move her
- Food Co-op initiative.
- We can look at our neighbor over the mountains -- Telluride -- and learn from their mistakes (and their successes). Real estate prices there are completely out of reach for working people, many expensive second-homes sit dark much of the year, traffic congestion and lack of parking are big problems, and we are headed in that same direction. I hear it said, "Oh great. The billionaires have taken over Telluride, and now the millionaires are taking over Ridgway." This is definitely a teachable moment in our history.

## Natural Environment

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Conserve resources
- New water treatment facility should include state of the art, carbon neutral engineering.
- Fresh water storage for drought years like this one
- Working towards clean energy
- finding additional water sources
- Purchase water rights for possible town expansion. Would have to include property
- water rights, expansion of access
- Before granting new building permits, prove sustainability, especially water.

With water restrictions already imposed, how can we justify more buildings?

- Encourage / require renewable energy use
- Reevaluate the water usage per household
- New reservoirs? Water sources?
- Consultation of ecological specialists for any development
- Green, efficient housing
- buying ag water for domestic use
- Water regulations, restricted usage
- the water issue needs to be addressed quickly
- The town is doing as good a job as it can with the 'no idling', recycling, encouraging walking and riding. Of course climate change is a global issue and we are starting to see how it might affect us here in SW Colorado. At least we can sleep better knowing that we are doing our part.
- Conservation through rate structure
- Encouraging environmental awareness (recycle, compost, Dark Sky, etc.)
- Drought, different ways to water gardens on personal property
- Develop standards for water use.
- We have a real water problem. We can't ski without snow or run the rivers when they're low. Even the RAT trails are a sandbox. We have a moral and economic duty to address climate change and to think creatively about how our tourism industry impacts the environment/ how we can sustain it as the environment changes.
- Working with ROCC to become certified as an international dark skies community
- Expansion of reservoir, serious enforcement of limits to watering,

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- reduction in ranching/ other agricultural uses
- Post more reminder signs about the new recycling bins.
- Mindful planning with the environment placed at a premium
- Working with ROCC to become certified as an international dark skies community
- education around proper xeriscape for new housing, community garden support
- preserve our parks and river frontage, limit wood smoke and car idling; include space for food production within each new PUD (and perhaps within our park lands)
- Obtain an improved outdoor lighting ordinance and Dark Sky Town designation quickly.
- Acquisition of more water
- Teach residents to live with and accept the wild life
- Secure more water rights
- Look into increased water storage to replace the snow pack in a warming climate
- Find back up water source & reduce vegetation requirement in zoning code.
- Education about the environment
- Reduce monthly base allowed and charge Prohibitive fines for overuseages.
- Plant trees
- No more plastic bags especially poop bags!
- Perks for ranchers and people who want to maintain land as pasture
- Reduce reuse recycle through incentives
- Grow Ridgway in a way that we can be carbon neutral
- Assure the master plan is sensitive to the uniqueness of Ridgway and is respectful of its natural beauty and is not over run by tourism
- Environmental regulations
- careful consideration of environmental impact as the town grows
- Dark Sky designation for town and surrounding areas
- Water costs are very high. If a person goes over a certain limit, then they should have to pay. Current water rules are too strict and seem unfair. Some people have sprinkler systems and they water every day. Those of us without this cannot water every day--only twice a week, that is the unfair part. Maybe make a rule that says you can only water 45 minutes every day or one hour every day and leave it at that.
- Encourage / require Xeriscape landscaping.
- No open fire anywhere in town
- Pursuing the Dark Sky initiative would be wonderful, but again, success hinges completely on ENFORCEMENT.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Limit numbers of people (permit system recommended) from outside of our immediate area (Ouray and neighboring counties) who hike, bike, etc into our mountains
- sustainable design
- Town plan for addressing climate change locally - how can we preserve what we have, plan for what may change, mitigate the risks we'll be facing?
- Setting up foundations or structures to encourage the protection of the valley floor

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Putting the river corridor protections in place
- Support ways to slow climate change.
- low water use for commercial and residential
- government administrators who sincerely care about our environment
- Water
- Work with land preservation and other groups to work out a plan to manage/limit development and protect the valley floor from development.
- Become a dark sky town
- Environmental impact
- Ridgway must pursue IDA Dark Sky Community designation as a standard of dark sky preservation.
- waterway cleanup – mining
- Continue all the good work re: River quality!
- Fire mitigation
- create a mandate to build sustainably and update water ways
- Pioneer a new concept of "local-grid" rather than "off-grid," a completely wind/hydro/solar energy sustainable energy production grid independent of the traditional grid, to include community power grid, internet and cellular infrastructure, water purification and waste conversion.
- promote water conservation
- codes that mandate conservation both inside plumbing and outdoor irrigation - green lawns and sprinkler systems are ridiculous anywhere in the Southwest including here
- Work towards being 100% renewably powered
- Carbon Neutral Ridgway by 2040!
- We could be a world class example of a community based on renewable resources.
- More water storage
- Development of an environmental resources stewardship plan
- Educate newcomers on wildlife
- Push consumers to be aware of waste management, provide good solid recycle/composting/and low impact choices
- proper management of water
- fire mitigation
- Support for small business growth
- Keep property South of Solar ranches for ELK!
- Water
- Near fantastic natural surroundings
- Don't overstress the environment use of water & overuse of the land, or it will not be there for future people to enjoy
- Keep planting vegetation around town
- energy efficient structures as part of master plan
- protect the river corridor north and south of the bridge. keep the river with a "wild" feel
- Environment-keeping air clean-recycling-
- Fire
- Improved monitoring of environmental conditions and improvements to the flood plain
- Encourage environmentally sustainable environment
- Education on climate changes and it's reality



Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Enforce a dark sky ordinance and educate residents!
- water conservation needs to be implemented
- No more fires.

## Parks, Trails, & Open Space

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Mountain bike trails
- integrated green spaces
- Use open spaces for grazing or parks to preserve the natural environment
- Preservation of greenspace
- Develop a functioning river surf wave in town
- as much open spaces as possible
- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
- Outdoor opportunities - more trails
- Easements and land trusts to protect surrounding open space to be built out. Focus on dense housing opportunities within town limits. More trails and greenspaces (that are not paved or sidewalks)
- Getting more Pickleball courts build.
- Dedicated pickleball courts
- purchase open space lands adjacent to town
- amazing in town bike park
- green parklettes and more trees
- Love that Ridgway is a dog friendly community. Would be amazing to have a dog park for owners who want to let dogs off leash.
- Continue to expand and protect hiking/biking trails and parks/gardens.

- Be resolute in protecting green/open space in town limits and surrounding town!
- Build complex's for sports like baseball fields for recreational softball
- More trails
- Increased outdoor/environmental education opportunities for the new non-outdoorsy types arriving
- Open space/parks
- Taking all opportunities for creating open space and trail networks
- Work with land owners to obtain more open space and parks. For example land owners can obtain a conservation easement for their property that protects the land from development and provides huge tax incentives to the land owner
- The partnering with BLM and Forest for more trails
- Maintenance of green space within neighborhoods
- access to outdoors
- open space preservation

### NON RESIDENT

- Preservation of wide open spaces.
- Expanding trails for biking and hiking and river sports. More outdoor recreation.
- Mountain biking
- work with landowners to keep open space; (via tax incentives and naming parks/ community buildings in their honor, etc.
- Trail watch plan to protect over used trails Blue Lakes
- Safe guard all open spaces currently in the MP
- Open space

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Maintain public access to wilderness areas
- Developing the river way - perhaps similar to Salida to promote in town tourism
- build some dedicated pickle ball courts in Ridgway
- designated pickelball courts
- More pickle ball courts are needed..
- Protect and expand park space. Perhaps mini-parks on land to be acquired or repurposed
- RV camping
- Develop designated pickle ball courts
- Open space
- Keep lots of open space
- Become a mountain biking mecca
- Continued consideration/advocating for public access to recreation/outdoors
- Our town is beautiful, but has the opportunity to be even more gorgeous with more focus on our town parks.
- Open space
- artsy water park for children (no swimming pool)
- beautification in a few areas of town. more pocket parks..
- Save space now for more downtown parking.
- work with the county on a CR24 bypass
- Make a bypass for the traffic to Telluride
- Reduction of traffic in main parts of town.
- by pass option for thru traffic
- Build a transportation system. It will create jobs and help our environment.
- Transportation & Mobility
- Develop a public transportation system so it easier to commute to where the good jobs are
- Highway bypass
- Making space for a large parking lot
- Explore regional opportunities to develop some sort of mass transit
- Create downtown parking
- stop light somewhere in town
- Alternate routes for westbound/Hwy 62 traffic
- ensure accessibility to sufficient parking for residents in the residentially zoned areas and prevent loss of parking for residents in front of their own homes by development and encroaching commercial development

## Transportation & Mobility

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- we need better bike lanes and walking paths
- Transportation & Mobility
- work with the State to create alternate traffic routes
- Round-about or traffic light on Sherman/Lena. Some way to have oncoming traffic stop for kids.
- town should buy property for parking areas. borrow money and buy it now before it is all gone.
- more parking
- Traffic is hard, a lot of people drive through Ridgway
- Add another community parking lot near town center
- Provide parking lots for visitors so they can park and walk instead of crowding into the few parking spaces in town.
- creating more parking

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Transportation & Mobility should be expanded among communities
- better walking/biking/car free paths
- Look to create more parking areas, turnouts, and roundabouts for traffic control and to encourage carpooling for commuting to/from work
- development of pedestrian walkways and bike paths
- Public Transportation & Mobility to Ouray / Montrose
- Traffic light on the west end of town. Difficult to get on highway during peak traffic time.
- Better parking and
- Greener Main Street/highway (bolster pedestrian access and slow traffic on Main Street)
- A bypass road from 550 to 62 to avoid too much thru-traffic in town
- public Transportation & Mobility
- passing lanes/ deer crossings (culverts)
- Development of more amenities that discourage or eliminate need for use of car, including telecommuting, public Transportation & Mobility, bike lanes and walking paths, sidewalks, parking lots, carpooling, ride-sharing, and number 1 so people don't have to commute.
- Local Transportation & Mobility
- A bypass for traffic from Montrose to Telluride. Ridgway does not need the commuter traffic passing daily through town. It increases the risk to pedestrians, bikers and children, contributes to air pollution, makes Town "busy", it is a nuisance. What does Ridgway gain from the commuter traffic? People coming from and living in Montrose or Delta are NOT buying gas and food and alcohol and

frequenting restaurants in Ridgway. It is MUCH cheaper in Montrose, why would they buy these things here? Dave Wood road should be paved and maintained for commuter traffic or route it through the far North side of Town where there are fewer people and businesses.

- Transportation & Mobility / commuting
- Expand biking & walking paths. Bus service to Telluride & Montrose.
- making Ridgway feel more like a destination and not just a pass through. currently there are two competing main streets which ends up hurting both commercial districts.
- consider a bypass for Telluride traffic.
- Buy a parking lot for commercial enterprises
- More parking on Sherman
- more bike/walking friendly paths
- The new turn signal at the light sometimes worried and people who are not from here seem confused at the south side of the intersection
- Speed enforcement, possibly lighting on all 4 corners of the 2 main pedestrian intersections (Lena & Cora St)

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- more parking
- Transportation & Mobility Efforts for Montrose workers
- Double lane highway to Montrose
- public Transportation & Mobility to Montrose
- pedestrian corridors, shut down clinton st from the colorado boy to west of kates
- Telluride bi-pass road that goes around the Town of Ridgway instead of through it.

Q29: What are three opportunities that should be explored or considered as part of the Master Plan process that could help address these issues?

- Roads
- Roads
- Think about Ridgway being 10k, 20k, 30k people. Then think about walking, biking, traffic, parking, open space, livability, infrastructure.
- Traffic
- Plan for additional lot parking BEFORE its availability disappears
- Pave CR-1, so locals can use it, instead of 550.
- Transportation & Mobility sponsored by merchants & employees
- Public Transportation & Mobility (closely tied with housing)
- ample commercial parking
- public Transportation & Mobility to Montrose
- raise the speed limits back to at least 25-30
- Hwy 62 bypass
- planning a secondary major thoroughfare around/in town
- Public Transportation & Mobility
- plan a bypass
- Pedestrian bridge (s) over sherman st.
- Perhaps consider options to make 550 wider for additional lanes.
- pedestrian bridge over hwy 550
- guaranteed resident parking
- Develop a plan to allow "Telluride" traffic to bypass Ridgway. The Telluride workers just pass through anyway.
- roads
- With the addition of the pedestrian bridge over the river and the more recent work downtown, Ridgway has come a long way towards being pedestrian friendly. I'd love to see this continue with an extension of the river trail to the South and something that bridges the gap to the east across 550.
- overpass for the highway
- Create across 550 bikepaths or walkways. Build a bikepath between Ouray and Ridgway.
- minimal traffic patterns in residential areas

## Q30: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN RIDGWAY?

### Arts & Culture

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Less focus on Tourism, more focus on preserving Ridgway's ranching culture/small town feel/artist community
- The creative community should be fostered and supported, as it is an attractive asset to the character of Ridgway.
- Get rid of the awful art in Ridgway
- I am really excited about the Artspace project and hope it happens.

#### NON RESIDENT

- Expand historic designation to historic houses and homes, maintain them, use them, offer more tours of the beautiful land and educate people about the history of the area and people who created it and lived in Ridgway. Offer train rides and education and the rodeo as part of festivals.
- I understand the movement to create an arts community, but I have not seen nor do I think there is a plan to create an economically viable plan. Having grown up and lived most my business life in New Orleans, an arts community is not easily sustainable

### Community

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Reaching for a diverse community is imperative
- Encourage a more diverse community

- Change is inevitable, what that change looks like and how the community adapts to it is dependent on resident's input and involvement.
- The neglect of our towns existing citizens and the courting of the rich has contributed to a decline in the quality of life.
- I very much want to see the inclusion of indigenous perspective not only in the planning process but also publicly messaged in our community's tourism efforts, interpretive walks and social media.
- There are a handful of extraordinarily gifted and generous individuals and families who invest time and resources who make it all run! Curious how to get more individual involvement into projects, events and activities in the community.
- Spend our money on making this a place to live for a variety of people, not just the privileged and wealthy. Don't spend money on fluffy items like public art and benches at the expense of pushing working people out

#### NON RESIDENT

- Planning and involvement by the residents is essential.
- Damn you're so close to nirvana, but you're going to miss the mark on being inclusive. Ridgway has never been anything but a passthru community, take your time and get it right. Be inclusive!!
- Stay authentic, cool, interesting and don't turn into Telluride!
- "Sometimes I fear Ridgway will grow and only be "open minded" to a certain type of resident. I would like to see us remain diverse with all types of residents, ranching, farming, professional, artistic, recreational etc. And making those

lifestyles accessible if possible to all who want to explore them. If we only have one sort of person that chooses to live and visit here I think we close ourselves off to diversity which is not always easy to come by on the Western slope. So our definition of diversity is almost a bit different than the definition one may naturally think of. Thanks for doing this survey!"

- We need to continue to focus on not falling prey to partisanship in an era that is hopelessly partisan in our country.
- Listens more to the long time residents' concerns

## Economic Development

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Without attracting new businesses (not just retail and restaurants) to town, it will be difficult to sustain a viable workforce. Secondly, that workforce will need housing they can afford. Thirdly, those workers will need a good school system for their kids. ALL of these are lacking currently and all need to be addressed.
- The town certainly needs additional retail of all types. Very little shopping opportunity.
- I think job opportunities, available housing, and property prices are not completely controllable, and will always be a never ending factor. It's a market condition that is self-correcting. If there are no jobs, and you can't cyber commute to a job, then this will limit population. If population is self-limiting, then the property price/ available housing situation is self-managed.
- Learn from others mistakes. Don't let business drive constant growth. Limit marketing.

- I would love to see a better grocery store with more affordable and more extensive food and general merchandise options. Lots of money goes to City Market because of our grocery store.
- I would like to see a better system for small businesses to advertise to locals. The post boards are rarely successful and social media does not reach many people, (due to many residents not using it.)
- Take advantage of opportunities or offers from extremely wealthy land owners in the area.
- No more chain stores, restaurants, etc. that is unique and a lot of the town atmosphere will go away if we allow the chains to come in.
- "Small business is key to the economy and community. When business's do well they give back.
- Would be a game changer if there was a larger business here that fits our culture that could employ people from varying level of skills from manufacturer to management
- Supporting the businesses better and supporting the museums that are bringing in the tourism and \$\$'s

### NON RESIDENT

- Now is the time to start the above discussions mainly because the real estate in Ridgway is relatively still affordable. If one continues to kick the can down the preverbal road when it hits critical mass will the Town be able to afford the real estate even if it has to resort to condemnation?
- About half the questions in your survey is predicated on the idea that Ridgway must provide cheap housing, jobs for everyone who wants to be here and every other kind of amenity and service. If we don't

think beyond this we are no smarter than Montrose or Grand Junction that operates on the premise that growth at all cost is the highest good.

- Sell food in the building near the swim beach, and chairs and beach umbrellas.
- Town P & Z & Town Council has dragged feet on approvals & added requirements with 3 development projects causing recent developer to quit & making development investment unattractive in Ridgway. Affecting housing & jobs in Ridgway
- Better capitalization of tourism
- better grocery store, year round employment, increase biking safely to each community
- Events like the skijoing competition have really helped boost winter tourism. We need to continue to find more opportunities to attract people in the off season. Telluride "off season" keeps getting shorter and shorter. I think this is because of programs like the venture accelerator, Telluride Science research center, in addition to the various festivals.

## Education

### NON RESIDENT

- Save money and combine the school districts of Ridgway and Ouray. It makes no sense to have two separate schools with so small classrooms. Combine the two schools & SAVE MONEY to be used in other much needed areas.
- Support the schools. I'm tired of living on a stingy teacher's salary
- bringing in housing/apartments without daycare defeats the purpose. people have to drive their children to Montrose then

come back here to work then repeat at night.

- I feel like the elementary school is of higher quality than the middle and high school. Ridgway is attracting many educated people and the high school should offer more AP classes and opportunities for serious students.
- Early childhood day care needs are a challenge. The teachers need to continue to be paid better and the elementary school is almost 50 years old and likely needs to be replaced. Don't start paving all the back roads. Support the history of the community

## Health & Well-Being

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Consistent and higher quality medical care
- I feel town needs more mental health care providers and day care providers.

## Housing

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- VRBO should be limited, so that there might be more rentals for people moving here. So many people have to live in Montrose who work here. Rentals are non-existent and those available are way too costly.
- Unfortunately i don't know what the answers are to these issues. There are a lot of wealthy residents or part time residents here who want a level of services and restaurants. There just isn't a pool of applicants. Most people are coming from elsewhere to work here and then have trouble with housing. It's difficult.

- if you want to encourage young people and families to stay here (rather than just retirees), affordability of housing will continue to be the biggest issue to address (and it has not been so far in my time here). Talk doesn't equate to action :)
- Increasing fees on VRBO and short term rentals in single family homes could help free up units for full time rentals. ADU could be exempt as long as they are on the owners property. Adhere to zoning - single family zoning must be single family (long term rental), not VRBO. Commercial residential is perfect zone for VRBO.
- Ridgway has had a vibrant home occupation situation and is now trying to commercialize that with 'space to create' while maintaining regulations that are disincentives to home occupation.
- having been more a telluride resident in the last 30 years, i watched that community grapple with similar issues-- i.e. affordable housing and parking. they got a head-start on both and Ridgway shouldn't wait another day to start seriously addressing these quality-of-life issues.
- Please help those of us who grew up here and have always lived here to be able to stay here and not be pushed out by the Telluride overflow!
- Incredible community, world class restaurants, concert summer series, but we need to be sure that everyone can afford to live here if they are invested in the community such as our teachers, young people, new families.
- Right now it is a free for all with housing. Anything goes and frankly some of the houses being built are just hideous and stick out like sore thumbs. Let's have

some oversight with the architectural plans.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- One possible idea, possibly a bad idea - can we create zoning for nearby cash-poor ranches and farms to allow minimal subdivision to add a small amount of housing to the area, while still preserving 95% of the ranch "feel" of the area. This would help ranchers to continue to afford to live here, while helping alleviate the housing crush. Maybe this is more of a county thing?
- Most of Ridgway School Districts teachers live in Montrose because they cannot afford to buy/rent in Ridgway.
- Affordable housing for teachers.
- We have met many wonderful families who have come to and left Ridgway due to lack of housing opportunities. Our own family nearly lost everything just to stay. It is definitely a town of true grit.
- I heard a county commissioner in a public meeting tell someone that "maybe you shouldn't live here if you can't afford it." I was shocked. A healthy and vibrant community embraces a variety of income levels. Who's going to serve those restaurant meals or ring up your art purchases or run the lift on your ski days, I wanted to ask.

#### **Infrastructure & Public Services**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I think we need to do all streets in Ridgway with asphalt.
- "Haven't seen anything about our infrastructure thus far in this survey.
- Would like to see what the carrying capacity of the town is with water and sewer remaining as they are today ?



- Would like to see a needs assessment for the town before this process is over so we can talk about the size of town and where most people see it going. How many years of growth (at present day rate) do we have before we need a capital investment. If we went to a mechanical treatment plant, should we move the "town shop complex" somewhere else and plan that area for some commercial/residential rezoning (?)
- "
- I think high-speed internet is the single most important factor for economic development in town.
- "Please pave more streets!!! We have so much wealth here---how is this not possible?!!
- Also, can we somehow become a model community for integrating generations to make life richer for all ages?"
- Fix sidewalks, add crosswalks, manage and enforce bike lanes

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Better broadband would be nice
- This is not a priority, but would be very cool: give the town and people free high-speed internet.
- We need public access to broadband.
- The expansion of San Miguel Power's solar capabilities and Broadband Internet!
- Restrict the desire to pave everything and focus on lower impact applications like decomposed granite walkways, etc.

### **Land Use & Built Environment**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I understand that we are trying to make our town the best it can be. We need to make sure that we don't change it so

much that it loses the small rural town feel so many of us moved here for. As is and has happened to many other small towns around the United States, people move in because they want to get away from all the amenities and craziness of cities and like the small town appeal. Then they move in and want to change things so they are more like the places they left. we need to make sure that we don't lose the small town charm we moved here for.

- There will continue to be growth and development in this great tiny town, the question is in what direction will those efforts moving. Let's make Ridgway a strong, vibrant community that honors it's incredible natural surroundings and produces thoughtful, kind citizens through great design, community planning, and openness.
- Less Is More otherwise the front range or LA or Vegas is a better suited location for those wanting a lot more.
- Just that if you build it they will come. The more amenities you add to the town the more people that feel they need those amenities will want to move here creating unmanageable growth pressures. The front range is rapidly becoming very crowded and at times unlivable. Many people from there will be looking for their next place. the "cooler" Ridgway is the more growth pressure we will have.
- It's a great town now. There's no need to keep paving and making it more expensive. The small town feel is going away
- Continue to develop those for creativity and outdoor recreational n and lifestyle.
- I truly hope most of Ridgway's residents want to keep the town from too much growth and change. We should try to

accommodate those who are passing through and visiting by providing the goods and services as we do to keep our local businesses strong but we are close enough to Montrose that let them worry about more housing for residents.

- Mixed use, town core. Disallow new single family residences in Downtown Historic district and encourage multi-level, mixed use (retail and apartments). Blended transportation options that limit single occupancy vehicles. Car share, bus, bikes, etc.
- Have master plan that puts the overall wellbeing of its residents first, with a consciousness of the need for growth in a responsible manner. In short, avoid fast sprawl and no direction for the growth, don't screw it up
- GROWTH NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED. We don't need to be another Telluride. We are losing the small town atmosphere.
- The separation of Business and Residential zones must be maintained. Projects like Space to Create forcing commercial parking and activity into residential zones sets a bad precedent, is out of character for Ridgway, and is against the wishes of neighbors. While I support the effort to make Ridgway a strong artist community, it must be done in a way that supports and does not threaten the current residents and their homes.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- GO SLOW!!!
- Don't let the town change too much
- I have lived in many beautiful small communities and have seen them change for the worse, because people who moved in because they "loved" the place, but decided that the small communities

didn't offer the same services as the big cities they moved from. Also, I have seen rampant over-development destroying the surroundings of those same places.

Finally, cost of living climbs, housing prices go up moving out the people who made the small communities so great.

- Keep it small and personal. We love the peaceful nature of this majestic part of the State.
- I understand we need to promote growth so the town survives. Let's be mindful and considerate of how we do that.
- Just keep in mind, the thing that makes Ridgway so special is it's small-town character and authenticity and the surrounding natural beauty. Those things need to be preserved at all costs.

#### **Local Government**

##### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- I know it is hard to get individuals informed and active until an issue gets personal. I wish I had a solution. I think the town - staff and council, do their best.
- The lack of active code enforcement is disappointing. There are lighting codes, noise ordinances and an idling initiative (no teeth there) in place, but unless there is a complaint, these items continue unaddressed freely.
- We moved here in part because it was a) affordable b) recreational opportunities and c) Ridgway still had an independent spirit (e.g., unpaved roads) and was not over-regulated (leash laws). I hope we can keep it that way.
- Seems like the local and county government is more concerned about a roof breaking the skyline than a family

breaking the bank and having to move out of the area

- no one follows the rules because there is a lack of enforcement
- The recent UROD debate highlighted the need for a comprehensive development plan or vision for the future of the river corridor. A subcommittee should be tasked to provide a detailed vision / direction for the next couple of decades so the revised master plan can be used to steer future development in a way that the community clearly understands and supports. The river corridor is an opportunity both for residents and the tourists that visit the town. It is a neglected asset and the UROD is not the answer. The UROD should have been written AFTER there was a clear plan in place - however, the current master plan needs to correct that misstep and then any revisions needed can be made to the UROD.
- Council should pass an ordinance restricting the use of the town right of way for junk vehicle and equipment storage. Begin fining owners of derelict properties.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Please find a way to transmit the town council and planning commission meeting live online. Not necessarily with the ability to chime in but I think there would be more community awareness and involvement if we could watch from home while making dinner or at least from the convenience of home. There's gotta be an app or something
- Enforce and strengthen town (and county) lighting ordinances, especially with so many new homes under construction.

- Don't allow tax revenue possibilities to overrule other considerations.
- The town needs to create ordinances to limit signage and outdoor merchandise displays. Right now the Main Street is overwhelmed with clutter. It's not a welcoming appearance.
- Planning department
- One other issue, I hope we do not get taxed out with rising property values. Use Santa Barbara as a template. Common people could not afford to live there anymore.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Ridgway is the most pet-unfriendly place I have ever seen.
- "In the past there has been a park cleanup day. I would like to see this expanded into a town wide cleanup to really involve the whole community to pick up trash in the residential and business areas as well as the parks.
- Like the Adopt a Road program, it should be in the spring and fall. The town should really publicize the event and perhaps have food for all the volunteers.
- Some people think we do not have a trash problem but we do even though it is not real bad. Some people can walk by a lot of trash and never even notice it! We need to involve the whole community to take pride in keeping Ridgway clean! I would like to see the regulation requiring 50% lawn eliminated in favor of encouraging xeroscaping. Climate change is going to make watering much lawn a probability as it already has this year. xeroscaping can be very attractive with different color stone, attractive borders and plants and flowers that are

drip irrigated. I would like to see all the streets in Ridgway with designated bike paths as they are paved. "

- I love this town and am so grateful that we've had such incredible people running the town for the 20 years I've lived here.
- Would love it if Ridgway avoids becoming Telluride.
- It appears that the Town Council and staff already have their minds set on what they want to do with the town and don't care what the tax payers want. Kind of what is happening in Denver and Washington DC
- Could the plaindealer be free too like the watch and the Daily Planet so all people read it? Maybe subsidize it if necessary.....???
- allow dog off leash
- I love this place! Thank you for sharing this town for me. I hope to be back again and again.
- Just that this town is a truly precious and special place that we hope to contribute to for many years to come/ share with others!
- This is a great town - it is in a great location, has abundant natural resources, is full of characters, is creative and funky. Would love for this to be maintained while built upon.
- I'd like to see a resurgence or focus on horsemanship and horseback riding opportunities for all ages
- A bit social and municipal bravery that will serve to keep Ridgway from becoming another cage full of lemmings would be useful.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- A great opportunity to keep and expand a great community
- Continue and expand efforts to change social norms regarding youth use of substances, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs
- It is tough to go back once you have messed up a town !
- Please approve compost toilets!?
- Quit trying to change the town!
- We travel into Ridgway several times per week. We go to the library which is great. We eat out, spend money and enjoy. We have been to Ouray twice and Telluride once and purchased one bottle of water on the three trips. The concert series is great, river fest was fun and we plan to continue to support your community.
- There are plenty of examples in the world today of failed and successful Master Plans...you may want to study those that are perceived as successful and decide who you want to be when you grow up. I doubt, in my lifetime your decisions could even come close to our home or disrupt our personal space, but everyone who enjoys the Ridgway of today should get to have that experience for generations to come.
- 1. Elk meadows needs to be in Ridgway school district 2. There needs to be more availability for preschoolers 3. Buying a house is unattainable to the middle class younger adult 4. Please please please consider paving or improving county road 5 as the road is USUALLY in terrible condition and there more and more full time residents in elk meadows whose vehicles are suffering.
- "Very thankful for opportunity to sure my view of Ridgway Love the town and area but feel it's going downhill and hopefully this survey will help. When you go down town, you see families with children hunters and fishermans. The so called

art objects are pulling it down Thank goodness, Ouray and Telluride are keeping their towns with mountain character. Benches check them out.

## Natural Environment / Sustainability

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I support the dark sky town designation process
- Encourage development of local renewable energy sources.
- water will continue to be an issue: implement gray water systems on all stand-alone housing with a yard.
- "Opportunity #4. Smart infrastructure including new environmentally efficient waste water treatment plan and high speed internet.
- Opportunity #5: Town powered by renewable energy and with electric vehicles. "
- Residential charges for water should be converted to cost/gallon metering to encourage conservation.

### NON RESIDENT

- You have a challenging and inspiring environment. Headwater placement, crossroad placement, and pressure to provide housing for the more developed tourist economies of Ouray and Telluride. Good luck! Support your ranchers-and public lands-they will be your bastion against total development.
- Plant more trees on town easement along streets without existing trees to promote a healthier atmosphere and to provide shade and wind breaks
- encourage business and homeowners to protect the dark sky (stars) view, perhaps by getting a telescope/observatory

(donation?) to raise awareness about this treasure.

- love the recycling effort
- I really want to see outdoor recreation that is respectful to our fragile environments encouraged; keeping our community connected to nature, healthy and connected to each other through shared appreciation of our unique place on the globe. Also, continued efforts to keep our community connected, with our differences, and heard and respected if very important to me.
- Ridgway has done an excellent effort to control city owned lighting to minimize light pollution and preserve the dark night skies. However, as growth is accelerating it is very important for the Town to manage the growth in light pollution to preserve the small town atmosphere and the starry sky.
- We absolutely love the town as it is now and hope that it continues to change in a way that increases quality of life for its residents and respects the beautiful natural surroundings.

## Parks, Trails, & Open Space

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Really love Ridgway, plan on being here for many years. Working with the County and NFS to develop new trails is high on my priority list. This will bring in increased visitation, spurring new businesses etc.
- 1. Would love to see a dog park in Ridgway. It would be a huge benefit to the community. 2. Dedicated Pickleball courts. This sport is great for seniors. Let's give them a space!
- Keeping green and open spaces is important, also, create economic

incentives for people to plant trees and greenery around homes. Water system needs option of untreated water.

- I think it would be wonderful to increase natural structures and inclusive play structures in our park. Please get rid of the merry-go-round. And replace with an infinity loop. Acknowledge the need for high quality early childhood care in our town. And celebrate efforts of those who work in this field. :)
- I think a walking/biking trail that connects from the Green street park out to CR 5 would add a very nice linkage to the recreation opportunities in town. Perhaps following the old railroad grade? I'd also very much like to see a fenced in, off-leash dog park. Given our ever increasing population of dogs in town this would provide a great opportunity for people to SAFELY play off-leash with their dogs while protecting wildlife. And let's make the community garden happen already! Don't let perfect be the enemy of good enough! Start simple and build it bit by bit if needed but it shouldn't be that hard to build a box full of dirt and put a fence around it.
- Trail networks off all kinds (river corridors, access to county roads in the winter, trail corridors required with all new development) are easier to secure now than they ever will be, please do all that you can. I think the largest threat to affordable housing is second homes. Anything that can be done to discourage second homes should be done. Keeping roads unplowed and internet not state of the art will help slow rampant development. Looking forward to preserve trails and open spaces is essential. Keeping the community friendly to ranchers (not 2nd home owners who claim livestock to get tax breaks)

preserves not only the heritage of the community and the open space but is respectful of the families that came before. I would much rather see a rodeo and 4 H show than the concerts in the park. P.S the concerts in the park are getting out of hand. They started off nice but now they are WAY TO LOUD and no one in town can go to bed before 11:30, lame. I thought they were supposed to end at dark and I think that is how they should be. Thanks for putting together this excellent survey, very well done!!!!!!

- A paved bike path from Ridgway to Ouray should be a priority. It increases year-round recreational opportunities and is good for all ages and a variety of sports.
- The trail north of town of BLM needs help. Currently a retired employee (Chip Marlow) does most of maintenance. He could use a hand.
- Also tie in the river to more programming! Make a long river path connected to the town. Focus on people being able to walk and bike, the true hallmarks of a small town. Ridgway is disjointed because the sidewalks stop and start randomly. Pave the road to the school! Show that education is a priority.

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- Pickle ball is a fast growing sport favored by your retirees. Retirees bring outside money into the community. Please consider building dedicated pickleball courts. Thanks.
- the skate park is one of the best small ones in southwest Colorado; it would be wise to expand it so more youth are attracted to visiting and living here, and to provide a safe place for youth to gather and play in a healthy way

## Transportation & Mobility

### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- It is a challenge to keep up with the increasing utilities. The increasing traffic in the summer is a pain but probably due to tourist increase which seems to be a goal of the Town. So instead of complaining too much we are trying to "make lemonade out of lemons" and joining the short term rental community.
- I feel there needs to a commuter bus/shuttle to and from Telluride and Montrose. Most people drive a round trip of 3 hours to 1 1/2 hours each day to work in Telluride. A multiple daily bus system would be a great form of transportation for our area. This would help cut down over the overflow of traffic through town. would be good way to bring more families and younger mid 20's to 30's crowd to the area.
- As population grows, traffic issues will grow. Town should consider a bypass to minimize amount of drive-through Telluride-bound traffic. An increase in Traffic will degrade quality of life, increase air pollution, increase hazard to pedestrians and cyclists, create a nuisance.
- Make Moffat St. one-way west bound and Hyde St. one-way east bound (or vice versa).
- speeding on CR5
- It appears the People in Charge are talking about putting diagonal parking in the residential area for the sprawl from Clinton. It seems as though they should have thought about that before they approved the Space to Create. I have looked over the Residential section of the code and I do not see parking as one of them. If they are going to pave and put

in parking for the commercial area, are they going to give us the opportunity to re-zone as commercial since it does have parking in its code? Given the fact that anyone can "camp" in their vehicles up to 2 weeks in this town, we on the north side see this as an opportunity to have people camping, smoking, littering and letting their dogs bark on our side of Town. Does this seem right? The other thing is that none of the Town Council members (even Eric on the end of Cora) had to put up with any of the "beautification" noise, rerouting of traffic, back up alarms at 6 a.m. etc. I think some of the parking issues should go to the other side of town - theirs. They get the "no big trucks" sign and the "slow for children signs". It appears if you live on the south side of Clinton you are the elite. There are places on the south side to add parking or use the property south of the library, buy Michael Wards property on the highway, etc. Give us a break

- Keep our Historic Residential Neighborhood streets from being turned into parking lots for businesses, employees and tourists. Forcing commercial parking into the Historic Residential zones sets a bad precedent for Ridgway, is out of character for Ridgway, and is against the wishes of neighbors. The people who make parking decisions are not the ones impacted.
- According to Town Of Ridgway Municipal Code: The Town Council desires to maintain the character of community and neighborhoods, particularly as a "Real Community" and not just a tourist town; and The Town Council desires to assure a safe and quality experience for residents; and The Town has made a conscientious effort to plan for specific uses within all

zoning districts and to anticipate conflicts between competing land uses, in order to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. To ensure that this will not be detrimental to the character of the neighborhoods and property values in general. Citizen Comment: But, when the "Space to Create" building eliminates the present parking lot at Clinton and N. Laura St., those cars will be displaced. There is no "Effective Transition" (Ridgway Code term) between the Historic Business District and nearby Historic Residential Neighborhoods. Town's solution so far is to park the cars in Historic Residential Neighborhoods, with attendant disturbing noise and commotion. We realize that requiring parking for businesses in the Historic Residential Neighborhoods violates the intentions of the preceding codes. At the May 29th, 2018 Planning Commission meeting Mayor John Clark commented on a parking situation in the South Side of Ridgway, about "reserving the right to find a solution if traffic, safety, noise or other effect which interfere with reasonable enjoyment of surrounding properties becomes an issue". Councilor Hunter seconded. We see this impending issue becoming a reality by encouraging unlimited tourist, business and employee parking at all hours in the Historic Residential Neighborhoods.

- Space to Create building causing the loss of the parking lot at Clinton and N. Laura St -. forcing commercial parking and activity into residential zones

#### **NON RESIDENT**

- It would be so great to have NO parking around the Clinton Street businesses as well as on the street in front of the True Grit - provide a free parking area outside

of that commercial area - that was the one big opportunity missed in the recent renewal project.

- It would really help if there was a highway bypass (CR 24?). Traffic is going from bad to worse.
- The county roads are not being monitored enough. Speeding is out of control. Perhaps the addition of speed bumps would help.
- How about a truckers by pass to get them off of Sherman st.



### Q35: WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS? (OTHER)

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- I work three jobs
- Part time self employed
- Multiple seasonal and part-time jobs, and self-employed
- Second job
- Contractor, out of town.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- retired engineer, but building houses
- Self-employed and full time caregiver/homemaker/volunteer
- Volunteer in local non-profit organizations and services
- Self-employed part time
- Retired/fulltime 2nd career/stay at home mom/Short term rental
- Part time and self-employed in Denver
- Semi-retired rancher
- Retired and camp hosting
- busy volunteer.
- Part-time employed, and full time homemaker. Spouse is full time employed
- Retired and work 1/4 time
- Grad Student and part time employee
- Seasonal full-time work then part-time work during school year

### Q36: WHERE IS YOUR WORKPLACE LOCATED?

#### Miscellaneous

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Wish I could do my job here in Ridgway.

- Had to move to the Front Range to get our kids in a better educational situation!

#### NON-RESIDENT

- TBD
- Denver, CO
- Other.
- Basalt, co
- I am an online professor
- I telework from home - official office is in Denver.
- Grand junction
- Ridgway State Park
- Part time consulting engineer.
- "I work for Theratogs but I truly believe they are about go under. I'm down to 2 days a week. Kinda difficult to keep a good attitude about that."
- Front range

#### Multiple Jobs

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- Several part-time jobs. I'm a retired public school teacher. I sub teach in Ridgway, work at Telluride ski resort in the winter, and do a few other gigs.

#### NON-RESIDENT

- Part time Ouray and self-employed part time project based in Denver

#### Not Working / Retired

#### TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT

- not working
- retired no work place
- I don't work
- Retired
- Retired

- Spouse works in Montrose
- retired
- Semi-retired
- Retired
- retired

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- retired
- Retired
- retired

### **Out of State**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- My work is project based mostly within the United States
- I own a small internet-based business and my husband works for a technology firm based in another state.

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Currently self-employed - my business is in Chicago
- Minnetonka, Minnesota
- Phoenix AZ
- Illinois
- Phoenix, AZ
- Until we retire in 5-6 years. Then Ridgway will be our full-time home

### **Travel/Multiple Locations**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- Telluride and from home
- I travel for work
- Was a carpenter in all of these areas
- Travel for work.
- Town of Ridgway and Unincorporated Ouray County

- I have 3 offices: Telluride, Ouray and Norwood Public Health, I perform the same services in each location
- I work mostly in the City of Ouray but also work in Telluride 1-2 days per week.
- I work in Telluride in the winter and Ouray in the summer.
- Telluride, home, site specific work across the region and the country.
- I work from home, work locally and travel out of state.
- My work is based in Telluride, however I drive the surrounding areas to actually work (Naturita, Norwood, Montrose and Ridgway). I also work from home part-time.
- I travel extensively for work and work in all of the surrounding communities (Ouray and Telluride and Silverton) seasonally.
- building trades so all of Ouray County and parts of San Miguel County
- I work in Ridgway and Montrose
- All of Ouray County, with my main office location in the Town of Ridgway
- Self-employed / travel

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Ridgway and Montrose
- We are a building company so our job sites change.
- Ouray, San Miguel, and western Montrose Counties
- I work with Buyers and Sellers in both Ouray and San Miguel Counties.
- In Ouray, Ridgway and unincorporated area
- I have a combination of work from home, Town of Ridgway, and unincorporated Ouray County.
- Ouray and Ridgway

- "Ridgway and Montrose Cimarron Roasters
- Colona La Zona Colona
- Telluride/Mountain Village/Ridgway/Montrose - I have done developments in all 4 municipalities
- Front range/home
- Travel
- I provide service to towns within a 75 mile radius to Ridgway
- Ouray County
- Town of Ridgway, city of Ouray, and at home. Yes, I have 3 jobs
- san miguel and ouray counties
- Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray, Town of Norwood.
- Ridgway, Ouray, and Ridgway State Park

### **Q37: WHICH RACIAL, ETHNIC, OR CULTURAL GROUP DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A MEMBER OF?**

#### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY RESIDENT**

- let's not give away the store
- Swedish Hispanic
- why?

#### **NON-RESIDENT**

- Other.
- Human
- Why does it Matter ?Should not fall into the equation. I am a Legal American Citizen.
- English, Irish
- Guess!
- Does this really matter??

Please note that questions 38-50 only pertain to visitors.

### **Q38. WHERE ARE YOU VISITING FROM?**

- Bolton, Massachusetts
- San Antonio, Texas
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Morgan Hill, California
- Morgan Hill, California
- Simonton, Texas
- Edmond, Oklahoma
- Placitas, New Mexico
- Farington, New Mexico
- Massachusetts
- Jacksonville, Oregon
- Acworth, Georgia
- Wichita Falls, Texas

### **Q39: HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU VISITED RIDGWAY (INCLUDING THIS TRIP)?**

- 20
- 20
- 10
- 12
- 12
- 4
- 10
- 30
- 100
- 20
- 2
- 30

- 8

#### **Q40: ARE YOU VISITING RIDGWAY FOR THE DAY? STAYING OVERNIGHT?**

- We are developing some lots in Ridgway and building a vacation home there.
- We are return annual visitors
- we are return annual visitors
- Used to live in Olathe and spent summers on Grand Mesa. My favorite place to be! Would like to live in Ridgway and always stop to eat and play there when passing through, which is fairly often.
- Usually for a week or more
- Family owns a home in Ridgway

#### **Q41: WHERE/HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT RIDGWAY?**

- Ridgeway Art Festival
- Our family used to come to Ridgway for picnics when I was a grade school girl and we summered on top of Grand Mesa.
- First trip years ago was to visit someone for a day, stayed for a week

#### **Q42: WHAT IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT?**

- looking at homes for retirement...affordable options as well. ADU's for additional income allowed on property
- looking at properties for future purchase
- Ouray County Historic Ranch Tour

#### **Q43: WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU PLAN TO ENGAGE IN DURING YOUR VISIT TO RIDGWAY?**

- relaxation. visiting the hot springs. 4 wheeling. photography.
- 4 wheeling, golfing, horseback riding, fishing
- Paddle boarding at the reservoir
- I haven't biked but that would be great too, as well as attending local events.
- Fishing

#### **Q44: WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT VISITING RIDGWAY?**

##### **Arts & Culture**

- restaurants
- Music Festivals
- Farmer's Market
- Great food
- Food, downtown
- Concerts in the park
- Farmers Market
- Art/Galleries
- Progressive artistic friendly community vibe
- Restaurants
- Great Restaurants
- food
- Good restaurants
- Art festival
- Summer concerts in the park
- Cuisine
- Variety of restaurants
- farmers markets, organic foods

### **Community**

- People
- Friendly people
- Friendly people
- Local people

### **Land Use & Built Environment**

- Walking distance to almost everything

### **Natural Environment**

- Beautiful
- scenery
- clean environment, air and water quality
- Clean
- Scenery
- The beauty
- clean environment

### **Parks, Trails, & Open Space**

- Town Park

### **Other**

- The thrift store
- healthy living and the healthy town mission statement
- Touring town's neighborhoods and thinking about moving there someday!
- surrounding area(s)

### **Small Town Feel**

- Slower pace
- Still very small like CB in the '60-'70's
- small town vibe

## **Q45: WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU DID NOT LIKE ABOUT VISITING RIDGWAY?**

### **Economic Development**

- Lack of large grocery store
- That it seems to be turning in to a mini-Telluride
- Rising real estate prices prevent a purchase
- Marijuana
- real estate prices

### **Infrastructure & Public Services**

- cable/satellite service for TV/phone etc.
- gravel roads outside of town
- Small roads
- It seems there is always roadwork when we're there. LOL
- more paved roads outside of town if possible and organic produce

### **Natural Environment**

- Mining legacy/effect on local waterways

### **Other**

- Gaudy Christian Center
- welcome hunters sign on bar (I'm an animal lover!)

### **Transportation & Mobility**

- traffic
- not close to any airport other than Montrose
- Having to drive to Montrose for many items, highway has way too much traffic

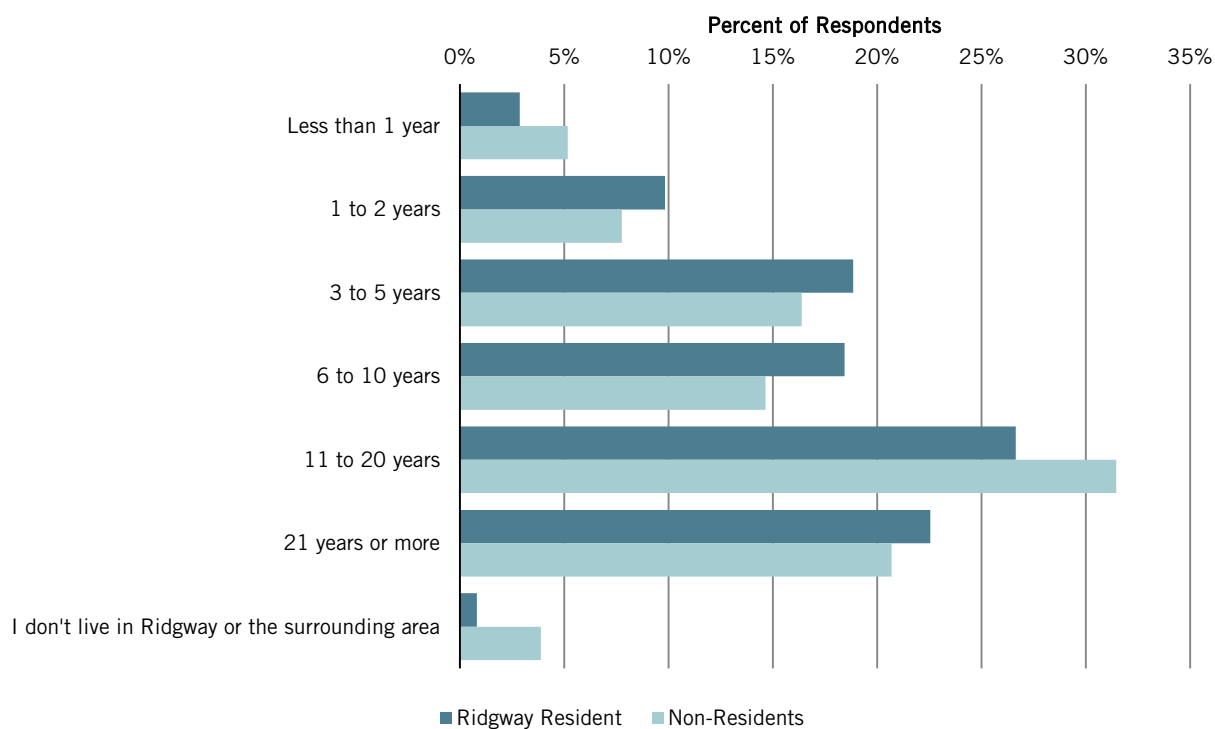
## ABOUT OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

In reviewing the survey results, it is important to first consider how accurately those who took the survey reflect the population of Ridgway as a whole. In any open survey such as this, there is the potential for bias in the results due to the fact that survey respondents are self-selecting (i.e., respondents chose to take the survey themselves; we did not prevent people from taking the survey if they were from a demographic group from which was already adequately represented in the survey). As a result of this self-selection bias, there are important demographic and socio-economic differences between those who responded and Ridgway's population.

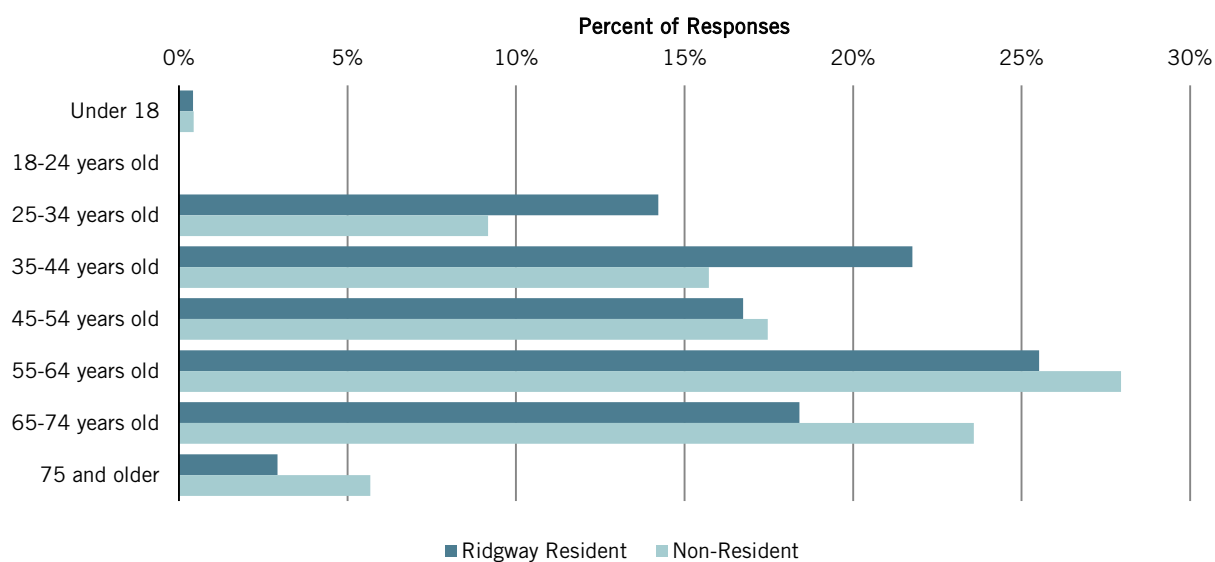
This is not to say that the results of this survey are wrong or not useful for the Master Plan process. We should not assume that a resident's opinion on a particular topic or issue is determined solely by socio-economic or demographic factors, just in the same way we should not assume that every member of a demographic or socio-economic group hold the same opinions. It does mean that the voices of certain groups are missing from these results, and will need to be sought out in future engagement activities to confirm the Master Plan and its goals and policies are supportive of the vision shared by all of Ridgway's residents, not just those who took this survey.

The following charts provide a summary of who took the survey. Where possible, data for respondents from Ridgway is compared to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Note, the Census data is from 2016 (the most recent year for which data is available), and may not accurately reflect the population who lived in Ridgway while the survey was available.

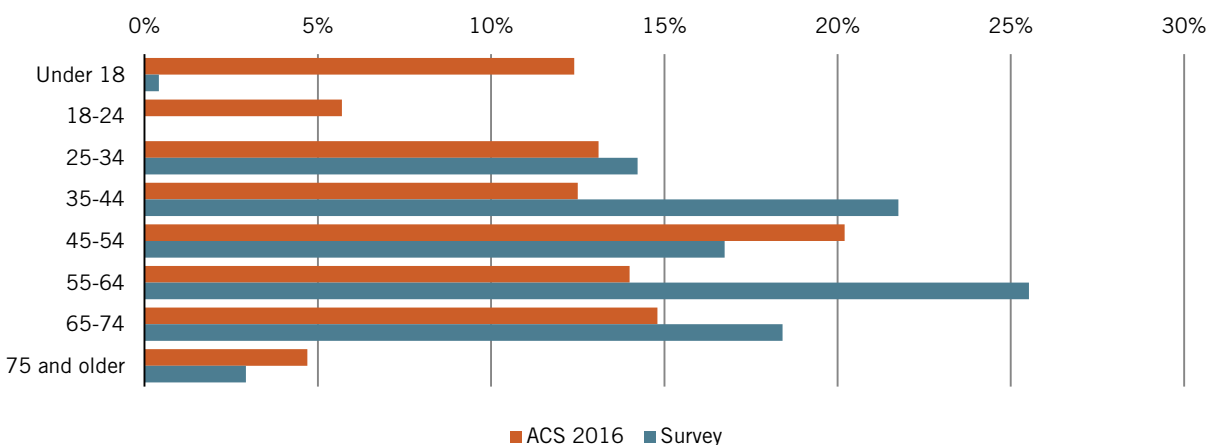
### Q31: How long have you lived (full time or part time) in Ridgway or the surrounding area?



### Q32: What is your age?

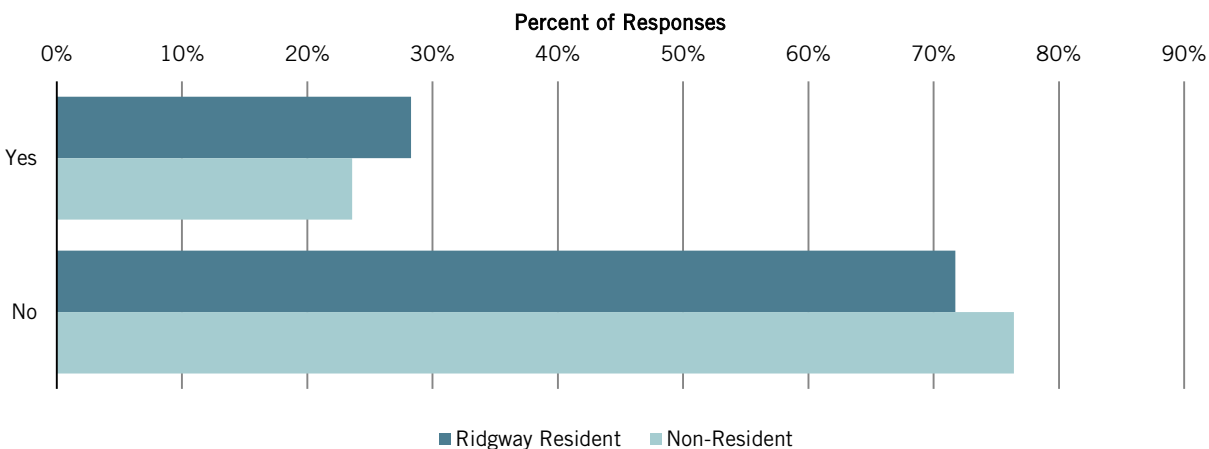


## How Do Survey Respondents Compare to Ridgway Residents?: Age



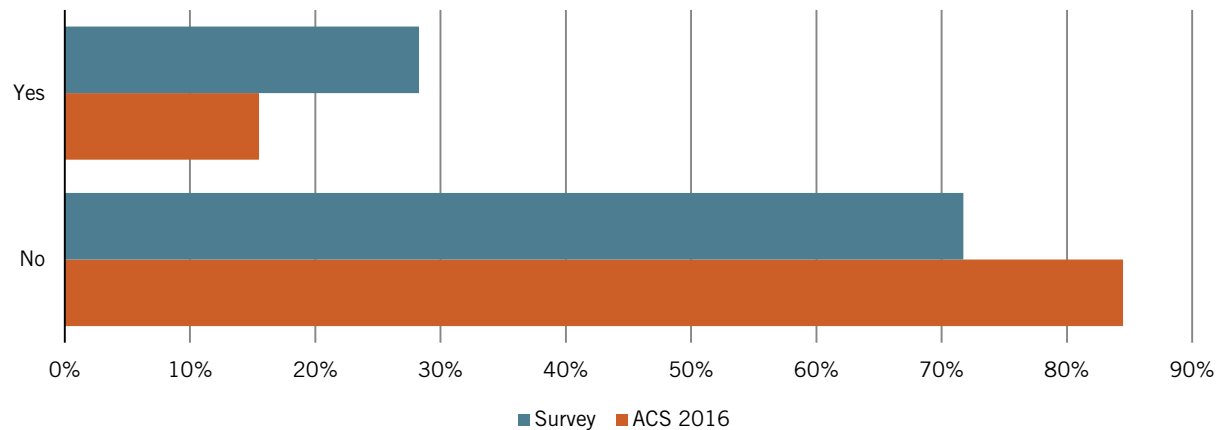
In general, older residents tended to be over-represented in the survey responses. Although they made up 18% of Ridgway’s total population in 2016, residents 24 and younger are not represented in the survey. A youth activity in the schools is currently underway as a way to ensure the voices of our younger residents are considered in the process. Additional outreach events targeting those under 24 more generally may need to be considered to reach this segment of the population. On the other hand, nearly 26% of respondents were between the ages of 55 and 64 even though this age group accounts for only 14% of Ridgway’s total population in 2016.

### Q33: Do you have children under the age of 18?



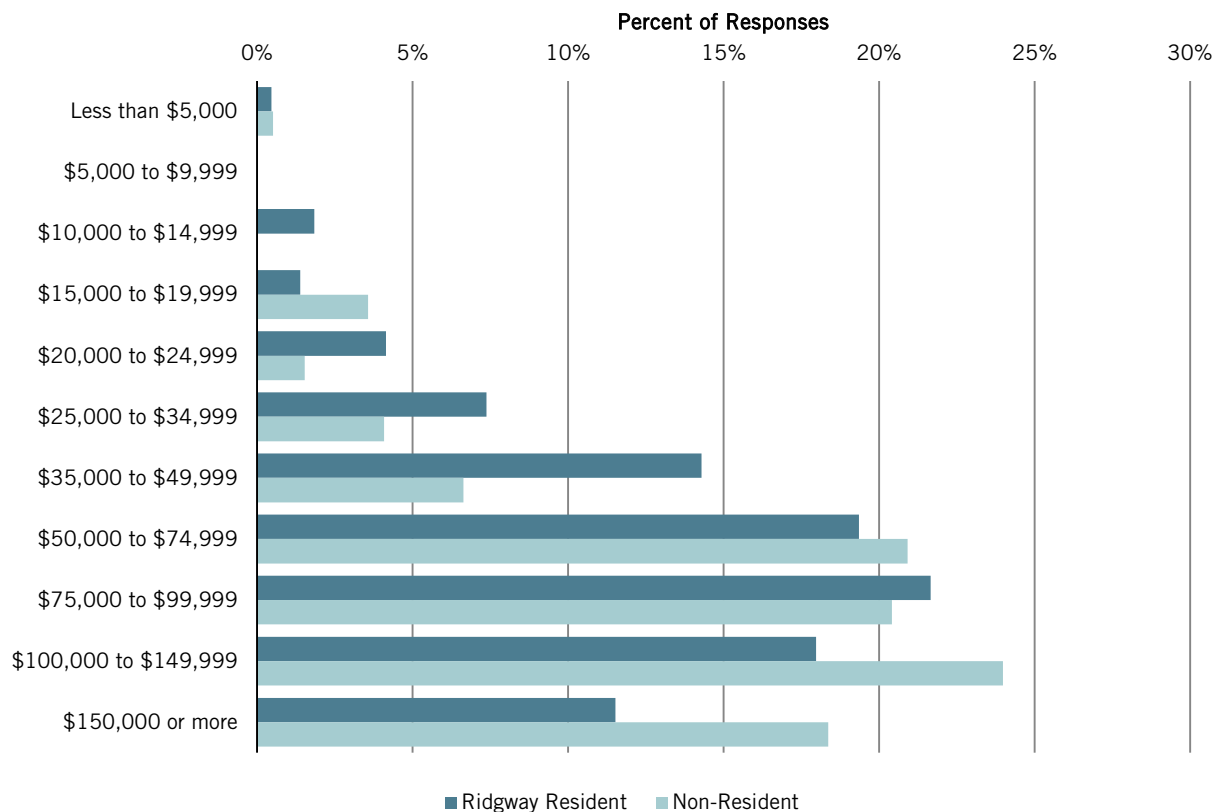


### How Do Survey Respondents Compare to Ridgway Residents?: Children under 18

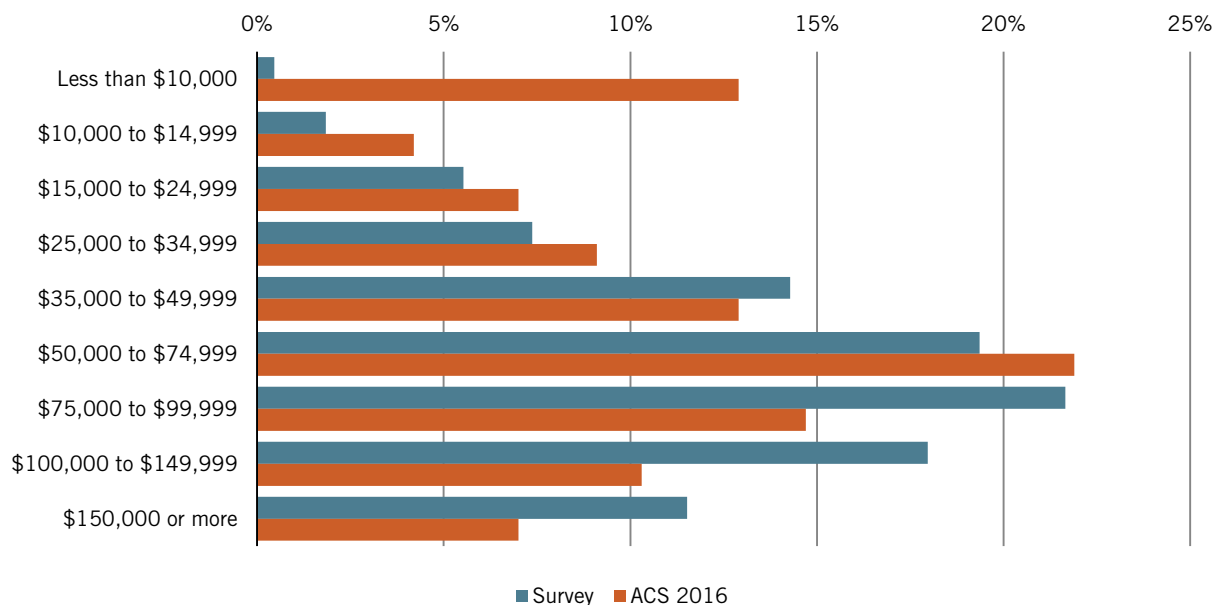


At first glance, survey respondents appear more likely to have children under 18 than the population of Ridgway as a whole in 2016. If true, this suggests that the survey results disproportionately reflect the opinions of families with children. However, the data from the US Census Bureau measures households with children under 18 while the survey data is for individuals with children under 18. It may be that the parents of an 18 year old both filled out the survey, explaining why the percent of survey respondents with children under 18 is double that for the percent of households with children under 18. That said, it seems unlikely that this was the case in every single instance so it is impossible to say with certainty whether or not this bias exists in the responses.

### Q34: What is your total household income?

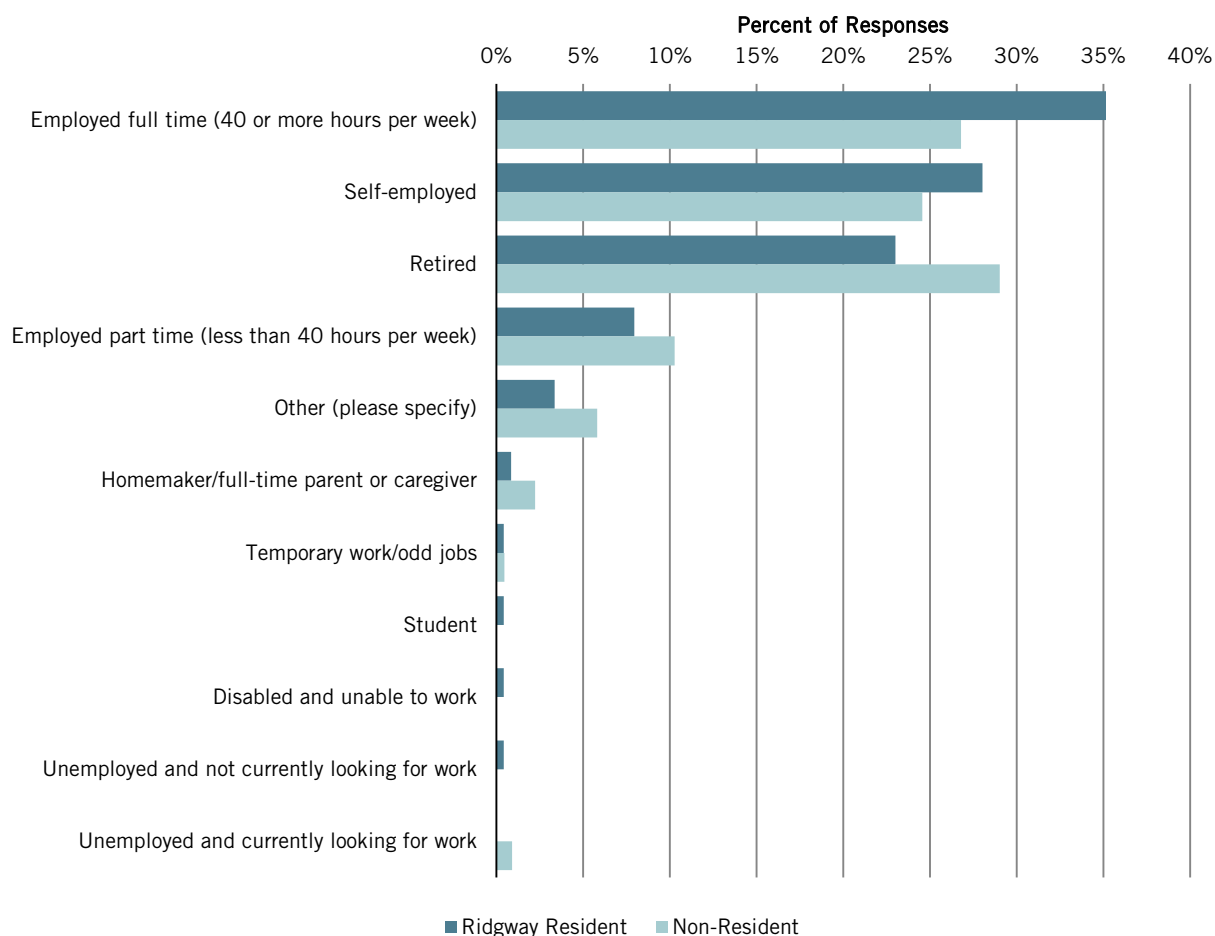


### How Do Survey Respondents Compare to Ridgway Residents?: Income

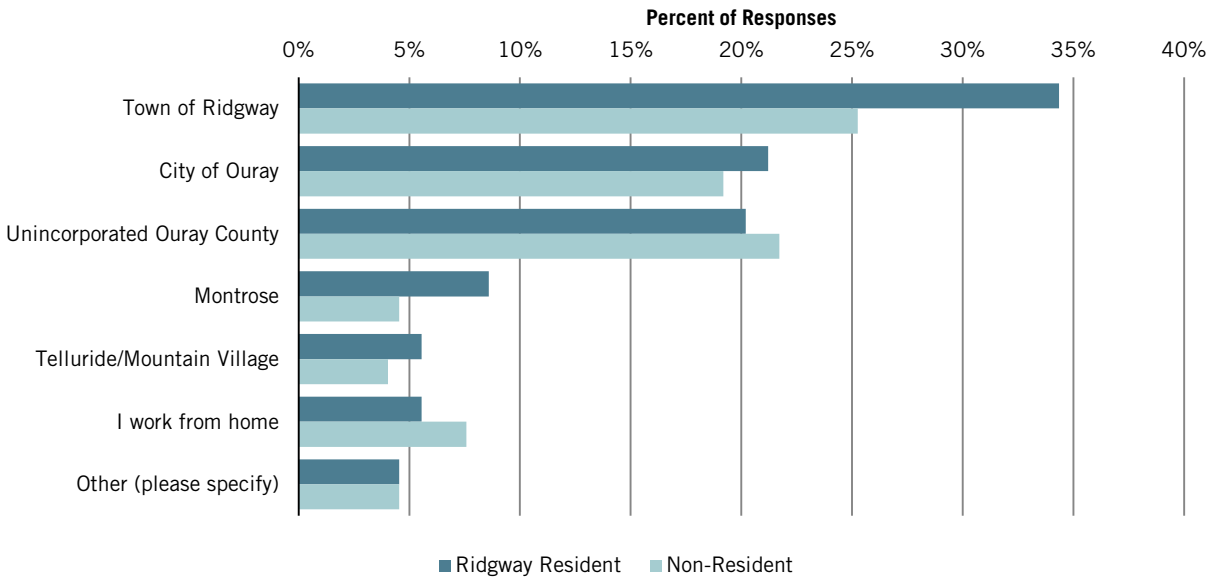


Income is another area where the survey respondents differ from the population as a whole. As the chart above shows, residents with incomes over \$75,000 were likely over-represented in the survey responses. However, it is uncertain the extent to which this was the case. The data from the U.S. Census measures households, not individuals. Since we did not limit multiple members of a household from taking the survey, it is possible that two members from the same household making \$75,000 responded to the survey, thus making a one-to-one comparison between the survey data and U.S. Census data inaccurate. Despite this, it is not unreasonable to assume that respondents to a perfectly representative survey would have a similar income distribution of that for households as whole. In addition, there is still a gap in responses from households making less than \$10,000 that is unlikely to be explained by this issue in comparing the data.

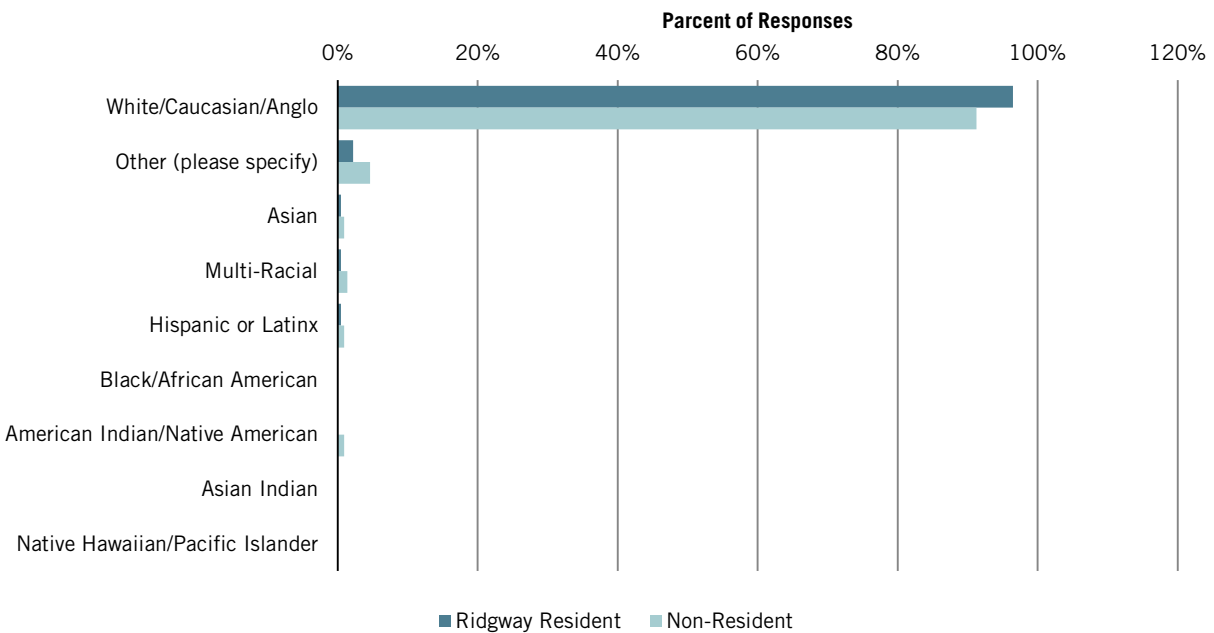
**Q35: What is your current employment status? Please select the response that fits your employment situation best.**



### Q36: Where is your workplace located?



### Q37: Which racial, ethnic, or cultural group do you consider yourself a member of?



The distribution of racial, ethnic, or cultural groups represented is generally reflective of Ridgway's demographics.