

**CITY OF CORTLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RESIDENT SURVEY**

475 surveys mailed, 177 returned = 37.3% Response Rate

I. ABOUT YOU

1. **Are you a:** **75.7%** Homeowner **23.7%** Renter
2. **How many people live full time in your household?**
36.2% 1 **35%** 2 **11.3%** 3 **14.1%** 4 **2.3%** 5 **0.5%** 6 **0.5%** 7+
3. **I am:** **37.3%** Male **59.9%** Female
4. **What is your age?** **4%** 18-25 **12.4%** 26-35 **14.7%** 36-45 **22%** 46-55 **22.6%** 56-64 **23.7%** 65 +
5. **Do you have children under age 18 that live with you?** **24.3%** Yes **75.1%** No
6. **Is anyone else in your household aged 65 or older?** **26%** Yes **74%** No
7. **How many years have you lived in the City of Cortland?**
2.8% Less than 1 year **14.7%** 1-5 years **6.8%** 6-10 years
15.8% 11-20 years **13%** 21-30 years **46.9%** 30+ years
8. **Do you use your property for anything other than a residence?** **7.3%** Yes **91.5%** No
If **yes**, what else is your property used as? (*Please check all that apply*)
15.4% Day Care **53.8%** Home Business **0%** Seasonal Home
0% Commercial **30.8%** Year-Round Rental **0%** College Student Housing
0% Other _____
9. **What influenced you to live in Cortland?** (*Please check all that apply*)
49.7% Born or raised in area **29.9%** Job opportunity **29.9%** Close to work
21.5% Small city atmosphere **7.9%** Low crime rate **17.5%** Cost of housing
7.9% Nearness to I-81 **4.5%** Community appearance **8.5%** Quality of schools
1.7% Historic Character **6.8%** Quality of nearby services **11.9%** College
39% Proximity to relatives or friends **5.6%** Other _____
10. **What is your employment status?** (*Please check only ONE box*)
66.7% Employed **1.1%** Unemployed **1.7%** Semi-retired **30.5%** Retired
If you are employed, where do you work?
47.5% City of Cortland **14.4%** Cortlandville area **5.9%** Other Cortland County community
8.5% Syracuse area **11%** Ithaca area **4.2%** Binghamton area
6.8% Work from home **9.3%** Other _____
Do you own a business in the City? **6.8%** Yes **67.2%** No **26%** Didn't answer
11. **How do you get to work?** (*Please check all that apply*)
0% Public Transportation **2.8%** Ride a bike **7.3%** Walk
59.3% Drive my own car **1.1%** Carpool **3.4%** N/A **2.3%** Other _____

II. COMMUNITY PREFERENCES AND CHARACTER

12. On average, how often do you purchase goods or services (including dining out) within the City of Cortland? (Please check only ONE box)

25.4% Daily 13% Once a week 44.1% A few times per week 11.3% A few times per month
 0.5% Once a month 4.5% Less than once a month 0% Never

13. Where do you do most of your grocery shopping? (Please check only ONE box)

49.2% Cortlandville 45.8% City of Cortland 0% Ithaca area 1.7% Syracuse area
 0.5% Binghamton area 0% Other _____

14. Where do you generally shop for other goods and services? (Please check only ONE box)

40.7% Cortlandville 23.2% City of Cortland 13.6% Ithaca area 15.8% Syracuse area
 1.1% Binghamton area 4.5% Other _____

15. Where do you go for most of your medical needs? (Please check only ONE box)

13% Cortlandville 68.9% City of Cortland 6.2% Ithaca area 7.3% Syracuse area
 0% Binghamton area 0% Other _____

16. Please rate the following about Cortland's existing conditions/services (Please rate between 1-4 in each category: 1 = Poor, 4 = Excellent)

| | 1 Poor | 2 Fair | 3 Good | 4 Excellent | No Opinion |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Small city atmosphere | 1.7% | 15.8% | 57.6% | 20.9% | 4% |
| Parks/Recreational Activities | 2.8% | 15.3% | 51.4% | 24.3% | 6.2% |
| Residential Neighborhoods | 2.8% | 30.5% | 55.9% | 6.2% | 4.5% |
| Cortland Schools | 1.7% | 13.6% | 44.1% | 22.6% | 18.1% |
| City Hall / local government | 4.5% | 19.8% | 55.4% | 6.2% | 14.1% |
| Housing Conditions | 9% | 52% | 29.4% | 1.7% | 7.9% |
| Water and Sewer system and service | 1.1% | 13.6% | 62.7% | 16.4% | 6.2% |
| Downtown Character | 4.5% | 30.5% | 46.9% | 11.3% | 6.8% |
| Appearance of commercial development | 8.5% | 35% | 38.4% | 7.3% | 10.7% |
| Sidewalks | 15.8% | 40.7% | 36.2% | 2.8% | 4.5% |
| Fire Department | 1.7% | 7.3% | 45.8% | 36.2% | 9% |
| Police Department | 3.4% | 11.9% | 46.3% | 32.8% | 5.6% |
| Code Enforcement | 14.7% | 25.4% | 35.6% | 6.2% | 18.1% |
| Ambulance Services | 1.1% | 2.3% | 48.6% | 26.6% | 21.5% |
| Hospital / medical services | 5.6% | 23.7% | 46.3% | 19.2% | 5.1% |
| Public Transportation | 6.8% | 24.9% | 28.8% | 5.1% | 34.5% |
| Traffic and Roads | 15.8% | 45.2% | 28.2% | 5.1% | 5.6% |
| Pedestrian/bicycle friendliness | 15.3% | 36.2% | 32.8% | 5.6% | 10.2% |
| Parking | 13% | 35% | 43.5% | 2.8% | 5.1% |
| Road maintenance / snow removal | 12.4% | 30.5% | 46.9% | 8.5% | 1.7% |
| Garbage / Recycling service | 4% | 13.6% | 58.8% | 16.4% | 6.8% |
| Day Care services | 2.3% | 7.9% | 20.9% | 6.8% | 62.1% |
| Youth services | 4% | 13% | 32.8% | 9% | 41.2% |
| Senior services | 1.7% | 8.5% | 35% | 12.4% | 42.4% |

17. In your opinion, since you have lived here has the City of Cortland:

- 22.6%** Become a more desirable place to live
- 43.5%** Become a less desirable place to live
- 27.1%** Not changed noticeably as a place to live
- 6.2%** No opinion

Why do you feel this way? _____

18. Which of these factors would likely cause you to leave Cortland? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 17.5% Inadequate housing opportunities | 13.6% Quality of schools |
| 9.6% Area is becoming overdeveloped | 6.2% Inadequate parks/recreation |
| 14.7% Area isn't developed enough | 58.8% Taxes |
| 51.4% Lack of employment | 7.9% Inadequate community services |
| 13% Lack of cultural opportunities | 22% Loss of community character |
| 42.9% Deteriorating properties/streetscape | 18.6% Other _____ |

III. LAND USE MANAGEMENT

19. In your opinion, which of the following issues should be better managed? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 58.2% Property Maintenance | 25.4% Protection of Tioughnioga River | 41.2% Sidewalk maintenance |
| 14.1% Minimum dwelling size | 32.2% Housing densities | 33.3% Park maintenance |
| 17.5% Street trees and lawn | 12.4% Commercial Building design | 40.7% Parking / traffic |
| 22% Bicycle infrastructure | 11.3% Signs | 17.5% Historic Preservation |
| 11.3% Other _____ | | |

20. What housing issues concern you the most in the City? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 22% Not enough quality rental housing | 55.9% Property maintenance/housing conditions |
| 13% High purchase prices | 12.4% Inadequate housing for single people |
| 11.9% Insufficient housing for young couples | 14.7% Inadequate senior citizen housing |
| 13% Subsidized housing | 26% Not enough homes in moderate price range |
| 56.5% Property taxes | 4% Housing is fine the way it is |
| 54.8% Conversion of homes to student housing | 6.2% Other _____ |

21. Where should the City concentrate its development / redevelopment efforts? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7.3% Expansion of Historic District | 42.4% Downtown Business Climate |
| 61% Clinton Street Ext. / Riverside Mall area | 16.4% Downtown Residences |
| 43.5% South End | 6.8% Residential neighborhood (specify:_____) |
| 22.6% Homer Avenue / Hospital area | 14.7% Other _____ |

22. What types of development would you encourage in the City? (Please rate between 1 and 4)
 1 = Strongly Discourage, 4 = Strongly Encourage

| | 1 Strongly Discourage | 2 Probably Discourage | 3 Probably Encourage | 4 Strongly Encourage | No Opinion |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Large (big box) retail | 11.3% | 20.3% | 30.5% | 17.5% | 20.3% |
| Large office business | 2.8% | 14.7% | 39% | 15.3% | 28.2% |
| Neighborhood retail and office | 1.7% | 7.9% | 45.8% | 23.2% | 21.5% |
| Hotels | 5.6% | 24.3% | 36.2% | 7.9% | 26% |
| Small inns / Bed and Breakfasts | 2.3% | 16.9% | 41.2% | 15.3% | 24.3% |
| Restaurants | 0.5% | 9.6% | 39.5% | 35% | 15.3% |
| Light manufacturing | 0.5% | 6.8% | 35% | 41.8% | 15.8% |
| Heavy manufacturing | 7.3% | 15.8% | 28.2% | 31.6% | 16.9% |
| Wireless internet infrastructure | 0.5% | 6.8% | 32.2% | 31.6% | 28.8% |
| Arts / Theater | 0% | 4.5% | 42.9% | 32.2% | 20.3% |
| Single-family residences | 0% | 2.8% | 38.4% | 38.4% | 20.3% |
| Apartment complex (4 or more units) | 11.9% | 31.6% | 24.3% | 9% | 22% |
| Town Houses / Condos / Cluster homes | 11.3% | 20.9% | 31.6% | 14.1% | 22% |
| Empty Nester Housing | 0.5% | 7.3% | 38.4% | 16.9% | 36.7% |
| Affordable Housing | 1.1% | 2.3% | 34.5% | 44.6% | 17.5% |
| Senior Housing | 1.1% | 1.1% | 42.9% | 33.9% | 20.9% |
| Home business | 1.7% | 6.8% | 46.9% | 14.7% | 28.8% |
| Large scale student housing | 26.6% | 29.4% | 17.5% | 4.5% | 21.5% |
| Medical / Dental Services | 1.7% | 4% | 36.7% | 39.5% | 17.5% |
| Other (specify): | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1.7% | 0% |

23. Do you think the City should have better site and building design guidelines for future development?

67.2% Yes 2.3% No 23.2% No Opinion

24. Do you think the City should require new commercial and residential development to incorporate energy conservation measures in future development?

72.9% Yes 5.1% No 11.9% No Opinion

25. Which issues should be given special emphasis during the City's comprehensive planning process? (Check all that apply)

- 83.6% Employment opportunities
- 53.1% Parking and traffic circulation
- 39.5% Housing opportunities
- 54.8% Protection/Conservation of water supply
- 41.8% Zoning or land use management
- 58.8% Neighborhood preservation
- 52.5% Energy conservation measures
- 50.8% More City, Town and County shared services
- 35% Public recreational facilities and trails
- 35.6% Natural resource and open space protection
- 35.6% Protection of historic buildings and sites
- 48.6% Downtown/Main Street development
- 44.1% Improvement of commercial/residential streetscapes
- 9% Other _____

26. What do you like most about living in Cortland?

27. How would you like the City to look in 20 years?

28. If you could change anything in Cortland, what would it be?

Please return survey by
December 14
OR
Bring them to the
Visioning Meeting on
December 3 or
December 6!

