

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 151 MARTIN
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025
6:30 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING
(WORKSHOP)**

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

III. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

A. Presentation from Assistant City Manager Mark Clemence

B. City Commission Discussion and Comment

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. ADJOURN

Should you wish to participate in this meeting, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/655079760> Meeting ID: 655 079 760

You may also present your written statement to the City Commission, City of Birmingham, 151 Martin Street, P.O. Box 3001, Birmingham, Michigan 48012-3001 prior to the hearing.

NOTICE: Individuals requiring accommodations, such as mobility, visual, hearing, interpreter or other assistance, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-3405 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

DATE: April 7, 2025
TO: Jana L. Ecker, City Manager
FROM: Mark H. Clemence, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Birmingham, like the rest of the country, is watching its population age. By 2040, approximately one in five Americans will be age 65 or older, up from approximately one in eight in 2000. In Birmingham, the Aging in Place Community Survey showed that 72% of residents stated that it was important for them to stay in their current residence as they aged. The residents of the City of Birmingham share the same desire as the majority of most Americans. Now, the complex part of the aging in place question is, how do we as a community assist our older adults to age in their homes in a safe manner that allows them to continue to be physically active, socially connected and mentally engaged? In other words, how do we assist our fellow residents who are older to continue to be valued members of our community and live meaningful and productive lives?

The Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) was created by the City Commission on April 24, 2023 ([Resolution # 04-093-23](#)) and seated on June 26, 2023 ([Agenda – Minutes](#)). The scope of work of the AIPC included the following:

1. A detailed demographic study of trends and patterns in our population;
2. A review of existing senior services and identification of unmet needs;
3. Development of a citywide aging in place action plan outlining the vision and goals to encourage senior residents to age comfortably in Birmingham.

The AIPC was commissioned for 18 months to complete these tasks. City staff was directed to facilitate the requested studies and research needed to develop an action plan to improve the health, safety and welfare of senior citizens in Birmingham.

At this time, the AIPC has completed the above tasks and is now seeking adoption of the Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan by the City Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The City Commission adopted strategic goals in November 2022, which included supporting an engaged and connected community by offering City services and amenities that enrich the lives of residents of all ages as a main goal. This strategic goal includes a recommendation to “create a task force to facilitate an aging in place plan, develop a plan for a permanent senior/community center to house NEXT senior services and to offer space for multigenerational programs, engage with youth in the community with a teen board or committee.” Based on one of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan, the City Commission at their meeting on April 3, 2023, unanimously passed a motion to direct the formation of an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee studied demographics and trends in our population and conducted a comprehensive community survey to determine the services needed to support our aging population.

Although there has been some past senior services committees that included representatives from Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin, they were primarily focused on how the communities could work together to fund a joint senior center. The AIPC was created to specifically focus on creating an aging in place action plan that could assist seniors to age comfortably in Birmingham.

From July 2023 through January 2025, the AIPC held monthly meetings and sometimes met more than once a month to accomplish its scope of work. All AIPC meetings were open to the public and were also available via Zoom. All agendas, minutes and speakers were coordinated and completed by City staff at the direction of the AIPC. The following is a brief synopsis of the process followed by the AIPC:

1. Reviewed and discussed senior services in Oakland County, MI. (guest speaker).
2. Analyzed City and regional demographic data (U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG data).
3. Reviewed and analyzed Next operations and services (guest speaker).
4. Reviewed City Building codes and zoning ordinances with the City’s Building and Planning Departments (two guest speakers).
5. Discussed and reviewed the AARP “8 Domains of Livability” (the domains are criteria used as measures to gauge where a community is at in terms of aging in place, identifying unmet needs and improving the ability of older adults to age in place).
6. Discussed and developed the Aging in Place Community Survey (key document to comprehensively design, market and analyze community sentiments).
7. Held a public engagement meeting at the Baldwin Public Library.
8. Issued the Aging in Place Community Survey to the public: online (Engage Birmingham); deliver hard copies to each City resident through City water bills; distribute hard copies at various locations in the City (City Hall, Next, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Museum, Birmingham Ice Arena, Baldwin House; and distributed at the City’s Winter Market event).
9. Held a public engagement meeting at Next.
10. Analyzed the Community Survey results.
11. Completed Aging in Place Community Survey Analysis Report.
12. Discussed, developed and completed the Aging in Place Action Plan.

The Aging in Place Action Plan was developed as a full scale plan with emphasis placed on the information obtained from the Community Survey, public engagement meetings and the examination and analysis of other private, local, county, state and federal programs. Aging in

place plans have been conducted and produced by all levels of government and private organizations. The AIPC wanted the Citywide Aging in Place Plan to be specifically tailored to Birmingham and our surrounding communities. The AIPC did not want to produce a generic aging in place plan, but one that listened to residents, analyzed their feedback, looked at existing services, examined unmet needs, considered options and produce a plan that has the potential to really improve the health, welfare, safety and quality of life for older adults.

The Community Survey produced by the AIPC was the largest and most successful survey to date conducted by the City (almost 700 submissions). The AIPC believed that a well written, comprehensive and easy to understand aging in place survey would be the key in trying to accomplish the scope of work requested by the City Commission. The Community Survey was limited to two pages (front and back), was clear, easy to complete and convenient to return with a resident's water bill, the U.S. Postal Service or a drop off location.

The AIPC decided that the framework of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan would be a modified version of the AARP's 8 Domains of Livability. The AIPC used a modified five domains and broke down each of the five domains into a series of nineteen (19) goals with sixty-four (64) accompanying action steps to achieve the goals. Each goal and accompanying action steps were further categorized into three different time frames: short (six months or less), medium (one to two years), or long-term (two to five years). The action plan was also color coordinated and delineated in spreadsheet format. Finally, the last piece of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan was an implementation plan that determined what organizations, groups, City departments or persons would be the best resources to undertake accomplishing the tasks that would lead to the completion of the stated goals.

After months of drafting, editing, revisions, public feedback and City staff feedback, the AIPC has provided the finished Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Report to the City Commission with the recommendation that the City Commission adopt the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan and commit to improving the health, safety, welfare and quality of life for older adults in the City of Birmingham.

While not for consideration at this time, the AIPC would like the City Commission to consider establishing a permanent Aging in Place Committee whose purpose would be:

1. To make ongoing recommendations to the City Commission on matters related to aging in place.
2. To work in concert with designated member(s) of City staff, Next and other stakeholders to implement the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.

Members of this permanent committee would ideally represent the various interests of aging in place issues in Birmingham and all regular meetings would be open to the public.

LEGAL REVIEW

The City Attorney has reviewed the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan and has no concerns as to form and content.

FISCAL IMPACT

The adoption of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan does not have any direct or immediate fiscal impacts. In addition, the plan was completely developed, written and produced by the AIPC with the assistance of City staff. No outside consultant fees were associated with the plan. The Community Survey was written and produced by the AIPC and hard copies distributed by the City to every resident in their water bills as well as other distribution methods.

SUSTAINABILITY

In general, master plans are most successful when they represent a vision that brings together the concerns of different interest groups in mind. In this case, the AIPC felt that many of the areas addressed in the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan were connected not only to the City's Birmingham 2040 Master Plan, but also to the City's Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, The Birmingham Green: Healthy Climate Plan and the City's Unimproved Roads Plan. As each of these plans are implemented, connections to the City's Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan can be considered.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no design considerations to be had at this time for this agenda item. However, as listed in the Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health) section of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan, a key goal is to provide a facility for Next and the community that promotes social interactions, community connections as well as health, fitness and recreational programs for all. If this facility is constructed, it should be the strong desire of the City and the community to have the building built to a LEED Silver certification level (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

There are no additional required public communications for this agenda item. As indicated earlier, all of the AIPC meetings were open to the public, progress reports presented monthly in the City Manager's Report, City Communication tools (Around Town e-newsletters, Constant Contact e-blasts, Birmingham Beat print newsletter, Engage Birmingham survey) sent out, announcements of AIPC work in City Commission agendas, two formal public engagement meetings and an extensive community survey distribution and analysis.

SUMMARY:

The Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee requests that the City Commission consider adopting the Aging in Place Action Plan in its entirety and through this plan, commit to improving the health, safety, welfare and quality of life for older adults in the City of Birmingham.

ATTACHMENTS:

Please see the attached document for review:

1. Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

SUGGESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Make a motion adopting a resolution to adopt the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan in its entirety and through this plan, commit to improving the health, safety, welfare and quality of life for older adults in the City of Birmingham.



BIRMINGHAM
A WALKABLE CITY



Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Report & Recommendations

Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee
City of Birmingham
January 31, 2025





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee would not have been possible without the direction and guidance of the City Commission, assistance from City staff and an engaged public that truly cares about the City's older adult population.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION

Therese Longe	Mayor
Clinton Baller	Mayor Pro-Tem
Katie Schafer	Commissioner
Andrew Haig	Commissioner
Brad Host	Commissioner
Anthony Long	Commissioner
Jason Emerine	Commissioner

AD HOC AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

Rackeline Hoff	Chair and Senior Resident
Cris Braun	Vice-Chair, Representative of Next and Senior Resident
Pam DeWeese	Representative and Senior Resident
Rosemary O'Malley	Representative of Adult Education and Senior Resident
Melissa Mark	Representative of Baldwin Library and Senior Resident
Jay Reynolds	Alternate Representative and Senior Resident
Rebekah Craft	City Staff Representative (Director - Baldwin Library)
Leslie Pielack	City Staff Representative (Director - Birmingham Museum)

CITY STAFF

Jana Ecker	City Manager
Melissa Fairbairn	Assistant City Manager
Mark Clemence	Assistant City Manager (City Staff Liaison to AIPC)
Marianne Gamboa	Communications Director



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Birmingham, like the rest of the country, is watching its population age. By 2040, approximately one in five Americans will be age 65 or older, increasing from approximately one in eight in 2000. Research is needed to determine the specific demographic trends and forecast to occur within the City and to determine the type of services needed to support these demographic changes.

In November 2022, the City Commission adopted strategic goals that included supporting an engaged and connected community by offering City services and amenities that enrich the lives of residents of all ages as one of their three priorities. This strategic goal included a recommendation to “create a task force to facilitate an aging in place plan, develop a plan for a community and senior center to house Next senior services and to offer space for multigenerational programs, engage with youth in the community with a teen board or committee.”

In April 2023, based on the above-mentioned goal identified in the Strategic Plan, one of those priorities the City Commission unanimously passed was a motion to direct the formation of an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee was directed to study demographics and trends in our population and conduct resident surveys to determine the services needed to support our aging population.

City staff recommended creating a new ad hoc committee with a distinct name and a scope of work that clearly distinguished the new committee from the former Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committees. The creation of an Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) composed of seven members with a broad range of experience in providing senior services, experience in senior health, nutrition, elder law and educational outreach was preferred.

One member that can offer experience in providing intergenerational connections/programming was also recommended. An initial eighteen-month term was suggested. The scope of work of the AIPC should include the following:

1. A detailed demographic study of trends and patterns in our population;
2. A review of existing senior services and identification of unmet needs;
3. Development of a citywide aging in place action plan outlining the vision and goals to encourage senior residents to age comfortably in Birmingham.

It is important to note that the focus of this ad hoc committee is on the demographics of our City, examining the current senior services being provided, identifying any unmet needs and finally, developing an action plan to help our residents age in place in a manner that is safe, healthy and comfortable.

The members of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee spent a great deal of time on the requested scope of work and examining tangential items related to the topic. It was very important to the AIPC that the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan produced by the committee was reflective of our community, thoroughly examined all of the requested areas and that every effort was made to involve the public as much as possible in the process.





AGING IN PLACE GOALS SUMMARY

The following two pages show the City of Birmingham's "Aging in Place Action Plan Goals Summary" as determined by the AIPC. This summary lists all of the intended goals of the action plan to incentivize a reader to want to read the entire plan. The Aging in Place Action Plan Goals Summary is color coordinated with the formal Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan and utilizes a modified version of the AARP "8 Domains of Livability" model.

City of Birmingham Aging in Place Goals

As provided by the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee's Aging in Place Plan, January 2025

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

1. Develop a facility for senior services (age 50+) to house Next, the City's dedicated senior services provider, that will be a welcoming and dynamic hub where all members of the community can gather in an environment that promotes socialization, physical activity, lifelong learning and community wellness.
2. Establish a funding mechanism to support reliable and sustainable senior services (Next).
3. Continue to prioritize public services (Police, Fire, Department of Public Services) that meet or exceed resident needs.
4. Create an understanding among City residents that Next is the City's primary older adult service provider and to have the services offered by Next known and understood by the community.
5. Maintain a positive, cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the City, Next, the Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) and other valued partners.
6. Coordinate health care, housing and other resources as necessary to assist older adults who lack insurance, financial resources or other support systems by networking with local, county, state and federal agencies.

Communication & Information

1. Create a multi-faceted communications model that uses numerous methods to ensure older adults have access to information about services and resources.
2. Expand and enhance the City's media/communications plan promoting Next and all of Next's support services to increase community knowledge.

Social & Civic Engagement

1. Support enhanced senior services and programming to provide older adults with more opportunities for physical, mental and personal growth and development.
2. Create and promote community and social activities/opportunities for older adults.
3. Become an "Age Friendly Community."
4. Install permanent restrooms in neighborhood parks to make older adults comfortable participating in outside physical activity.
5. Provide older adults with assistance in exploring employment and volunteer opportunities in the community.

Housing

1. Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.
2. Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.
3. Modify the City's zoning ordinances to provide both incentives and options for older adult housing.
4. Increase the walkability of the City for older adults.

Transportation

1. Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for all older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.
2. Improve the feeling of safety and walkability by working with the Police Department to evaluate speed concerns, sign violations, failing to yield to pedestrians already in a crosswalk and/or crosswalk encroachment by vehicles.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To better understand the issue of providing senior services to the community, it is important to examine the history and timetable of senior services in the City. Who has provided senior services? How have senior services been funded? What does senior services entail? Is aging in place the same as senior services? Below is a brief summary of what the City has done in the past in order to address senior services and the funding to support senior services/aging in place.



Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (1977-2015)

The Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) was a non-profit organization established in 1977. Individuals from the community and the Birmingham Public School District Lifelong Learning Initiative proposed the establishment of an area wide senior citizen program to the City of Birmingham. The mission of BASCC was to identify and meet the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities by soliciting and coordinating community resources to provide educational, recreational and social programs, supportive outreach services and volunteer opportunities. Communities served by BASCC include all of the communities served by the Birmingham Public School District (BPS). BPS provided a home for BASCC at no cost as an in-kind donation. After several location changes, BASCC moved into the former Midvale Elementary School building (2121 Midvale St., Birmingham, MI). The Midvale Center is located in a neighborhood setting with free parking and affordable programs to enhance seniors socially, physically and intellectually. Programs included health, fitness, sports, creative arts, computer classes, cards and games as well as local and regional travel opportunities.

BASCC also offered outreach services including information and referral services, transportation, tax assistance, counseling, support groups, nutrition support and many more. As a non-profit, BASCC's funding was provided by grants, donations, fundraisers, membership dues, municipal support and investment income. As stated earlier, BPS provided in-kind support that included one-third or 10,000 sq. ft. of space of the Midvale Center. BASCC had a Board of Directors that oversaw its financial and organizational activities.



Next (2015 - present)

In March 2015, BASCC was renamed “Next.” Since 2015, Next membership has soared from 1,100 members to over 2,300 members. Average Next program attendance now exceeds over 1,500 participants weekly. Next is inclusive, creating a warm and welcoming center where residents want to gather to experience a vibrant community center filled with life-long learning, enrichment opportunities, fitness classes, travel programs, creative endeavors and most importantly, a hub for socialization. Next continues to offer valuable and expanded support services that are vital to serve the most vulnerable segment of the population.

In this report, Next will be thoroughly analyzed by the Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) as part of the AIPC’s review of existing senior services and the identification of senior service related needs.



Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (2012)

In 2012, the City of Birmingham, along with other neighboring community partners, created the Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (JSSC). The Ad Hoc JSSC was established to address the areas of need for our rising senior demographic, including the appropriate funding and governance models necessary to support those needs. The seven participating organizations of the JSSC appointed a total of 19 community leaders to serve on the committee. The membership covers all municipalities wholly within the boundaries of the Birmingham Public School District, including: the City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, Village of Bingham Farms, Village of Franklin and Southfield Township, as well as the existing senior services provider, Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) and the Birmingham Public Schools. The duties of the JSSC were as follows:

1. Study what other communities are doing to fund and manage senior programs and services;
2. Gather public input to create consensus around what senior programs and services our seniors need, want and are willing to fund;
3. Prepare policy recommendations regarding a combination of programs, services, revenue sources and governance models;
4. Solicit public input on these policy recommendations before reporting back to each governing body.

Upon completion of their work, the JSSC recommendations to their respective governing bodies consisted of a two-phase approach to addressing their mission:

1. Phase I (short-term measures):
 - a. Increase services and hours to capture the emerging senior:
 - i. Increase services and evening and weekend hours.
 - ii. Add exercise equipment.
 - b. To meet revenue needs, seek an additional \$200,000 contribution from the four communities of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.
2. Phase II (long-term measures):
 - a. Utilize a bond issue to fund a new or upgraded facility.
 - b. Replace municipal and Birmingham Public School District funding with a millage.
 - c. Increase space for the senior center by 50%.
 - d. Be open at least 69 hours per week.

The JSSC presented its final report in June of 2013. The final report of the JSSC was presented to all four communities by September of 2013. The Birmingham City Commission took no further action.

Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (2018)

In June of 2018, the City Commission once again addressed the issue of senior services and, by resolution, formed a second Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (JSSCII). Along with the communities of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin, its objective was to conduct a long-term study and evaluation of what the necessary funding and governance model would be to effectively provide adequate senior services to participating residents. The scope of work for this second JSSCII was as follows:

1. Review the JSSC Final Recommendation to the Municipalities Report from June of 2013.
2. Evaluate service demands and projected trends for senior demographics and future service demands.
3. Analyze funding sources and operational structure of the current contracted senior service model.
4. Compare and contrast current senior services funding and governance models in the participating communities to other area communities and best practices.
5. Review and evaluate cost and budget implications of any proposed recommendations and include strategic funding alternatives.
6. Compile the Committee's findings and recommendations into a report to be presented at the end of the Committee's term.

From City reports and meeting minutes, it appears that the JSSCII did meet and conduct meetings. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it appears that the JSSCII did not meet often and most meetings were via Zoom. The JSSCII did come up with a proposed interlocal agreement between the City of Birmingham and the three other communities (Village of Beverly Hills, Village of Bingham Farms and the Village of Franklin) that would address the financial issues surrounding the support of Next. Unfortunately, it was determined that this interlocal agreement in its current form would not be the most appropriate avenue for the City of Birmingham. Likewise, the other three municipalities and their leaders did not want to enter into such a complex interlocal agreement because it would necessitate the local communities providing the senior services instead of a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

As a result, the proposed JSSCII Interlocal Agreement was never presented to any of the respective municipalities for approval. In addition, the JSSCII did not prepare a final report with their findings and/or recommendations at the end of their committee's term. The Birmingham City Commission took no further action.

Next Interlocal Agreement (2021)

After the JSSCII Interlocal Agreement was not accepted by the City Commission and/or the other municipal partners, the Birmingham City Attorney reworked the interlocal agreement with different language and shared that revised agreement with the legal counsels of the other three municipal partners. In August 2021, the Birmingham City Commission first examined the new interlocal agreement between the City and Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin to support Next financially. The City Commission asked for some language changes and updates. In September of 2021, the City Commission approved the new language and approved the interlocal agreement between the City of Birmingham and the Village of Beverly Hills, Village of Bingham Farms and the Village of Franklin for Joint Senior Services.

The purpose of the interlocal agreement was to enable Next to rely upon stabilization and predictability for its finances in order to serve the seniors residing in the four governmental units. In terms of participation, each unit agreed to participate in granting money to Next as requested in the amounts equivalent to each governmental unit's past year's contribution. The governmental units may annually increase or decrease these contributions, which are payments for services rendered to communities' seniors, during each fiscal year as approved by the municipal governmental unit.

Current financial contributions of the four municipalities served by Next account for approximately 18% of Next's total budget.





PROCESS

The Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) began meeting in July of 2023. There was a great deal of discussion and debate as to the methodology the committee should use to accomplish its scope of work. It was decided that it was logical to begin the committee's work with a discussion concerning older adults and what it means to "age in place."

The AIPC then held monthly meetings with guest speakers and topics directly related to the scope of work. All of the AIPC meetings were open to the public, and they were encouraged to actively participate with the committee. Meeting discussion points:

1. Review senior services in Oakland County, MI.
2. Analyze City demographics, SEMCOG information and census data.
3. Review and analyze Next operations and services.
4. Review City building codes and zoning ordinances with the Building and Planning Departments.
5. Discuss and review AARP "8 Domains of Livability" and its pertinence to the Community Survey and scope of work.
6. Discuss and develop the Aging in Place Community Survey.
7. Hold a public engagement meeting at Baldwin Public Library.
8. Issue final Aging in Place Community Survey to the public: online (Engage Birmingham); deliver hard copies to each City resident through City water bills; distribute hard copies at various locations in the City (City Hall, Next, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Museum, Birmingham Ice Arena and Baldwin House); and distributed at the City's Winter Markt event.
9. Hold a public engagement meeting at Next
10. Analyze Community Survey results.
11. Complete Aging in Place Community Survey Final Report.
12. Discuss and develop outline of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.

Review of Recently Developed Plans for Older Adults

The final task of the AIPC was to develop a Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan to assist Birmingham residents to age in place. Although the scope of work was different, the AIPC did review the City's JSSC Final Report from 2013 and the JSSC II Interlocal Agreement from 2021. While this is the City's first venture into the realm of aging in place, other entities have developed plans for addressing the needs of seniors or older adults. The AIPC considered county, regional and state efforts in consideration of developing a plan for Birmingham:

1. Oakland County Ad Hoc Committee on Healthy Aging
2. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Aging & Adult Services Agency
3. The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging
4. The State of Michigan Advisory Council on Aging
5. Ageways (formerly known as the Area Agency on Aging 1-B)



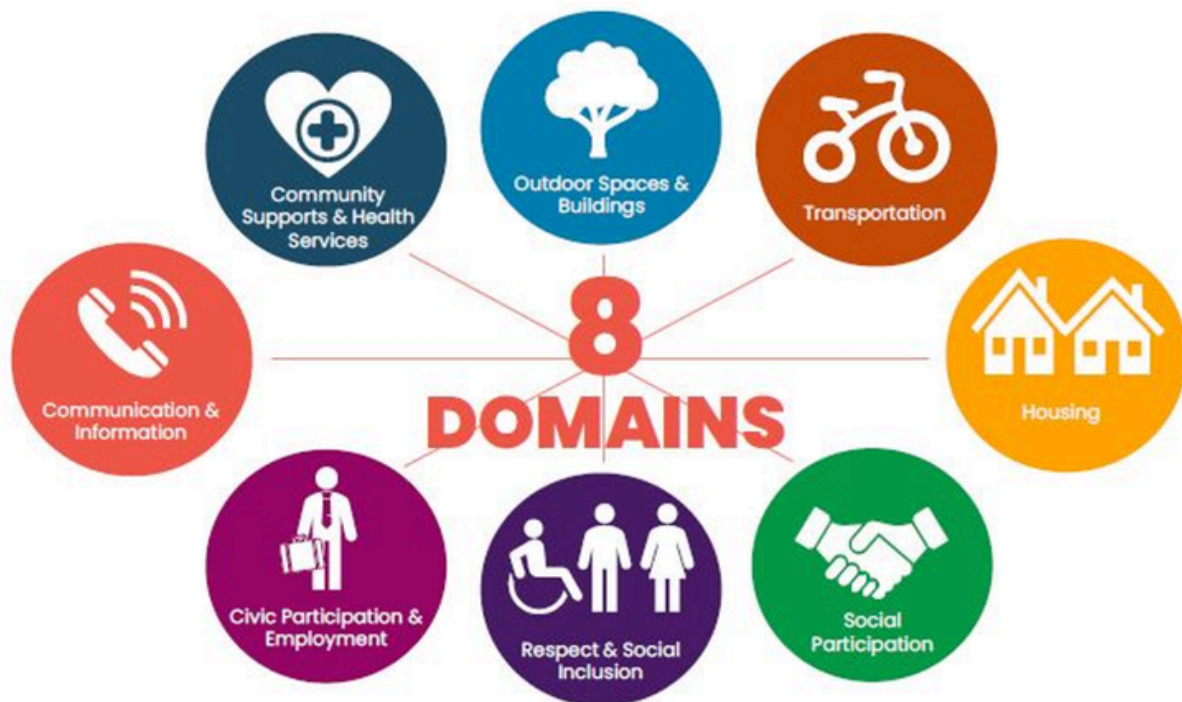
AARP “8 Domains of Livability”

While all of the older adult plans and studies reviewed by the AIPC contained valuable information and resources to consider moving forward, all of the plans looked at the issue of aging in place from a more global point of view (e.g., county level/state level). Again, the topic of aging in place is not new and the key issues and needs (framework) have been identified. The goal of the AIPC was to take the framework and apply it to Birmingham and the surrounding communities.

The AIPC believed a well written, comprehensive and easy to understand Aging in Place Community Survey would be key in trying to accomplish the scope of work requested by the City Commission. The AIPC took into consideration the work of the other entities listed on page 15, along with the AARP “8 Domains of Livability” criteria as the committee moved forward with an Aging in Place Community Survey that would specifically address our City and the surrounding communities. Most aging in place plans utilize some form of the AARP “8 Domains of Livability.” The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults and help make communities more livable for people of all ages. The domains are as follows and are reflected in a graphic chart created by AARP:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect and Social Inclusion
6. Work and Civic Engagement
7. Communication and Information
8. Community and Health Services





As mentioned, many aging in place plans and reports from around the country and within Michigan use either the domains listed by the AARP or domains that are very similar to AARP “8 Domains of Livability.” The domains are used as measures to gauge where a community is in terms of aging in place and assist communities in identifying unmet needs that need to be addressed to improve the ability of older adults to age in place. The AIPC adopted this format, modifying it to directly align the aging in place plan with our community. This was especially prevalent during the development of the committee’s Aging in Place Community Survey as previously described. Upon examination, there is overlap between domains and certain actions undertaken could impact more than one domain at a time.

The Birmingham Plan 2040

The Birmingham Plan 2040 ("2040 Plan") was adopted in May 2023 by the City Commission. The 2040 Plan is a comprehensive master plan, which is a document and policy guide designed to help Birmingham conceive a vision of what we want the City to look like in the future. The City of Birmingham is required to adopt and maintain a comprehensive master plan pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Using the 2040 Plan as a guide, the City will develop new ordinances, policies and programs related to land use, transportation systems, housing, sustainability, and other issues important to Birmingham residents.

In general, master plans are most successful when they represent a vision that brings together the concerns of different interest groups. In this case, the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan is able to connect with the 2040 Plan in a number of ways:

1. The 2040 Plan contains several recommendations related to housing.
2. Transportation is a major component of the 2040 Plan.
3. The 2040 Plan emphasizes sustainability, which is a major consideration for a vulnerable aging population.
4. Neighborhood planning districts in the 2040 Plan are structured around the needs of the community, which includes gathering places and parks.

At a high level, the 2040 Plan contains themes of "connecting the City" and "retaining neighborhood quality" that really resonated with residents throughout the drafting of the plan. These themes resulted in several recommendations that directly relate to some of the goals of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan. In connecting these threads together across plans, the two plans will be able to support each other in implementation and will enable City Staff, the City Commission, the Planning Board and all other stakeholders to engage more meaningfully with the goals of each plan.

The AIPC felt that many areas addressed in the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan were connected not only to the 2040 Plan but also to the City's Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, the Birmingham Green: Healthy Climate Plan and the Unimproved Roads Plan.



AGING IN PLACE COMMUNITY SURVEY DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY

With the framework in place for how the survey would be structured, the AIPC turned its attention to engaging the public. The AIPC wanted as much public feedback and participation as possible. The AIPC also discussed trying to reach as many older adults as possible that have not weighed in on the issue of aging in place or whose voices have not been heard in the past due to a lack of communication. The AIPC considered the following questions and created strategies for addressing them:

1. How can the AIPC increase the participation level of residents and others in completing the Aging in Place Community Survey?
 - Mail every resident a hard copy of the survey in their City water bill and provide an easy mechanism for the return of the survey in the water bill or in a separate envelope.
 - Distribute and collect hard copies in specific locations throughout the City (City Hall, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Museum, Birmingham Ice Arena, Department of Public Services Building and Baldwin House).
 - Use Engage Birmingham for an online version of the survey.



2. How can the AIPC communicate and increase awareness of the Aging in Place Community Survey to the public?

- Include monthly update in the City Manager's Report.
- Use Announcements section of City Commission meetings.
- Make personal appearances by City staff at interlocal partners' Village Board meetings (Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) informing them about the survey and providing hard copies and the Engage Birmingham link.
- Use two public engagement meetings to discuss the survey; one at the Baldwin Public Library and one at Next. The purpose of these meetings was to allow for public comment on the survey and accept other public comments on the topic of aging in place.
- Send e-blasts and press releases through the City's Communications Team.
- Facilitate local media (Oakland Press, Downtown Magazine) publications of articles about the survey.

The AIPC spent a significant amount of time designing and editing the Aging in Place Community Survey to ensure it accomplished the goals and objectives of the AIPC. The final survey:

1. Was well-written, easy to read and simple to complete.
2. Was limited to two pages (double-sided) in order to be included free of charge in the City's water bills.
3. Covered demographic information and was targeted toward adults of any age; identified what features of the City were important to respondents; and utilized a modified AARP "8 Domains of Livability" framework emphasizing our City and local communities.

The Aging in Place Community Survey was distributed from December of 2023 through April 1, 2024. The AIPC received 690 survey submittals, which is the highest number of survey responses the City has ever received, according to the Communications Department. The AIPC discussed the results obtained from the survey at great length. A final Aging in Place Community Survey Report was approved by the AIPC with accompanying graphs and explanations.



ACTION PLAN FOR OLDER ADULTS

Share your feedback about an action plan to improve the health, safety and welfare of older adults in Birmingham. Whether you are an older adult or know of older adults within our community, your feedback is important!

Did you know?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines aging in place as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level".

Birmingham maintains its small town feel while offering the recreational and cultural advantages of an urban area. What is most important about Birmingham for older adults? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Arts and entertainment | ☐ Library/Museum | ☐ Safe neighborhoods |
| ☐ Community and social activities | ☐ Next | ☐ Shops & restaurants |
| ☐ Houses of worship | ☐ Parks and trail system | ☐ Walkability |
| ☐ Historic character | ☐ Recreational activities | ☐ Other: _____ |

Demographics

What is your zip code? _____

Your age range: ☐ Under 35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55
☐ 56-65 ☐ 66-75 ☐ 76-85 ☐ Over 85

Gender: _____

Number of people living in your home: _____

Are you employed? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time
☐ Retired ☐ Not employed

If not employed, would you like to re-enter the workforce?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Considering it

Birmingham & Your Needs

Circle the number which best describes your feelings about the statements below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is important for me to remain in Birmingham as I age.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel the City of Birmingham's police, fire and public services meet my needs.	1	2	3	4	5
Birmingham has accessible parks and facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
I have a support system in place to assist me as I age.	1	2	3	4	5
I have adequate health care and am healthy enough to age in my residence.	1	2	3	4	5
I would support the continuation of a senior millage (one mill or less) for older adults.	1	2	3	4	5
I am familiar with Next, a nonprofit organization that is the City's primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults.	1	2	3	4	5
I am familiar with Next's comprehensive support services.	1	2	3	4	5

I need help with the following support services. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Grass cutting | ☐ Minor home repairs/modifications | ☐ Transportation |
| ☐ Snow removal | ☐ Daily living activities | ☐ Other: _____ |

Transportation

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have adequate personal transportation.	1	2	3	4	5
I am familiar with the City's partnership with Next to provide SMART transportation services to local appointments/destinations.	1	2	3	4	5

Housing

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel safe in my residence.	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to modify my residence so I may age in place.	1	2	3	4	5
It is important to stay in my current residence as I age.	1	2	3	4	5
The affordability of housing is a factor in my decision to remain in Birmingham.	1	2	3	4	5
Birmingham offers a variety of living options for older adults.	1	2	3	4	5
I am interested in the following alternative housing options in Birmingham. Check all that apply.					
☐ Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) ☐ Rental Units ☐ Small/Tiny Homes					
☐ Co-Housing ☐ Senior Living Facilities ☐ Other: _____					
I have the following concerns about aging in my current home. Check all that apply.					
☐ Unable to care for myself ☐ Unable to care for my property ☐ Stairs or other physical barriers					
☐ Unable to afford to live in home ☐ Feeling isolated/Being alone					
☐ Other: _____ (Attach additional pages if needed.)					

Social & Civic Engagement

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am satisfied with Birmingham's civic destinations and outdoor spaces and facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
Birmingham has adequate public restrooms.	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with my social life and feel connected to the community.	1	2	3	4	5

Communications

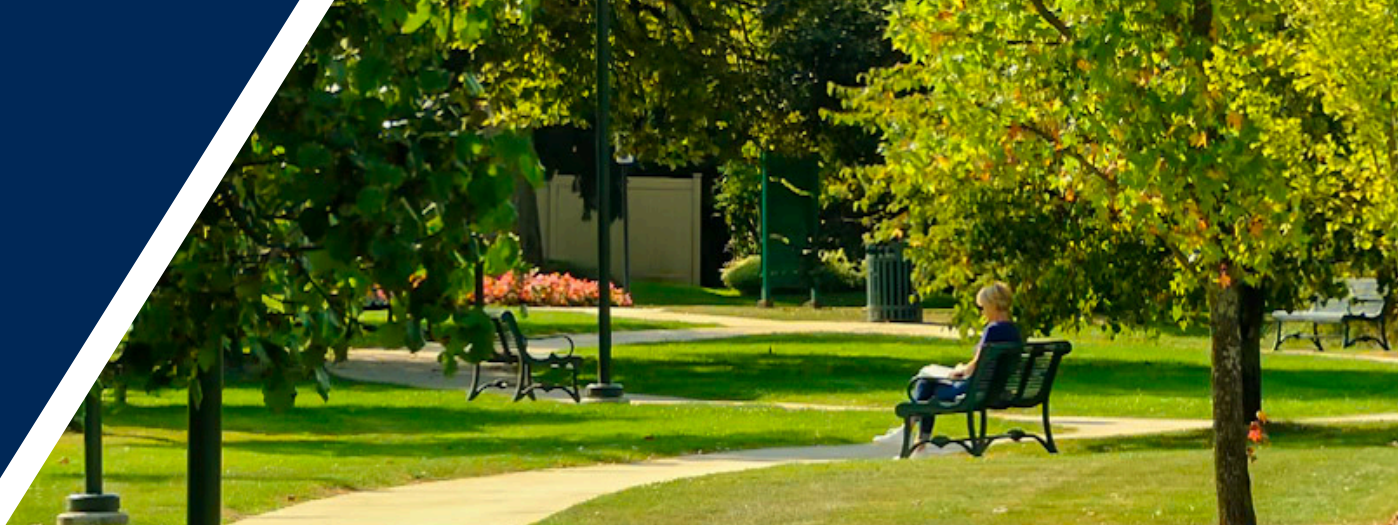
What is your primary source of City information? Check all that apply.					
☐ City electronic newsletters/eblasts ☐ City website ☐ Social media					
☐ City print newsletters ☐ Family/friends/neighbors					
I would like more information about older adult services and opportunities.					
☐ Yes ☐ No					
I would like to receive a weekly phone call to check on my welfare.					
☐ Yes ☐ No					
I would like to volunteer my time to assist others.					
☐ Yes ☐ No					
I would like to be contacted for a personal interview regarding my survey responses.					
☐ Yes ☐ No					
My contact information (optional): _____					
If you have additional information you would like us to consider as we develop an action plan to help older adults age in place, please add additional pages or email clemencem@bhamgov.org .					

Submit Your Survey

1: U.S. Mail: City of Birmingham Attn: Aging in Place Survey, 151 Martin Street, Birmingham, MI 48009
 2: Drop Off: City Hall drop boxes, Clerk's Office, Baldwin Public Library or Next (2121 Midvale Street)
 3: Engage Birmingham - Submit this survey online at engage.bhamgov.org/aginginplace

Thank you for completing this survey and helping to improve the health and wellness of older adults in Birmingham.





BIRMINGHAM AGING IN PLACE CITYWIDE ACTION PLAN

The AIPC's Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan is based on all of the data and sources of information considered by the AIPC and includes the following:

- Section 1: Demographic Analysis (national/state/county and Birmingham-specific)
- Section 2: Review of Existing Senior Services (identification and unmet needs)
- Section 3: Action Plan at a Glance/Citywide Action Plan (outlining the vision, goals, and objectives to support residents to age comfortably in Birmingham)

Executive Summary

What does it mean to age in place? It is a simple question with a complex answer. In simple terms, to age in place means that a person lives in their home as they age for as long as possible. Research has shown that the vast majority (70% to 90%) of older adults in the United States want to age in place. In Birmingham, the Aging in Place Community Survey showed that **72% of residents stated that it was important for them to stay in their current residence as they aged** (20% were neutral and only 8% were negative). It was also interesting to note that **80% of all survey respondents indicated that it was important for them to remain in the City of Birmingham** as they aged (16% were neutral and only 4% were negative).

The residents of the City of Birmingham share the same desire as the majority of most Americans. They want to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Now, the complex part of the aging in place question is, how do we as a society assist our older adults to age in their homes in a safe manner that allows them to continue to be physically active, socially connected and mentally engaged? In other words, how do we assist our fellow residents who are older to continue to be valued members of our community and live meaningful and productive lives?

It is an important time for older adults in Birmingham and our surrounding communities. The next several years present unique opportunities for our older population moving forward as the City, Next and our community partners work out the details of a new Birmingham Community and Senior Center and financial support system. The City has purchased the YMCA building at 400 E. Lincoln to house Next. Of paramount interest will be the issues of what the Birmingham Community and Senior Center will be? What role will the YMCA play in the final picture? What will the final agreement look like between Next and the City? How will our interlocal partner communities support Next? Because of ongoing developments in some of these issues, the implementation timeline for the Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan will reflect a timeframe of 1 to 5 years.

Purpose and Structure of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

The Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan is laid out in domains similar to the AARP's 8 Domains of Livability. The AIPC modified the domains to reflect Birmingham and area communities as much as possible. Within each domain is a series of goals that are broken down into corresponding proposed action steps. Finally, each goal and accompanying actions steps were further categorized into three different time frames: short (six months or less), medium (one to two years), or long- term (two to five years). The action plan was color coordinated and delineated in spreadsheet format.

The last piece of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan is how the action plan would be implemented. What organizations, groups, City departments or persons would be the best resource to undertake accomplishing the tasks that would lead to the completion of the stated goals?



Implementation

It is the hope of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) that the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan will be approved in its final form by the Birmingham City Commission and by the other interlocal communities. The information presented will provide insight and a path moving forward for the community as a whole as it relates to aging in place. The City, Next and its residents should be part of an age-friendly community that not only encourages aging in place, but provides the resources and assistance necessary to accomplish the goal of aging in place.

The City has a long history of identifying an issue as a community and working together to collaboratively solve a problem or create a solution. Therefore, when the Aging in Place Citywide Plan is adopted, the AIPC recommends that the Birmingham City Commission establish a permanent Aging in Place Committee whose purpose would be:

1. To make ongoing recommendations to the City Commission on matters relating to aging in place.
2. To work in concert with designated member(s) of City staff, Next and other stakeholders to implement the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.

Members of this committee would ideally represent the various interests of aging in place issues in Birmingham, and regular meetings would be open to the public.



SECTION 1

Aging in Place in Birmingham: Demographic Analysis

Summary

The focus of this demographic analysis was to examine the trends and patterns in the City's population as it relates to aging in place. There are numerous sources to examine relating to demographics for a given community. Different studies and reference documents had similar numbers, but there were minor differences. It was the decision of the AIPC that the committee would focus on two specific organizations to interpret demographic data. The two sources were:

1. United States Census Bureau (2020 Census)
2. Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG: 2006-2010 and 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, SEMCOG Development)



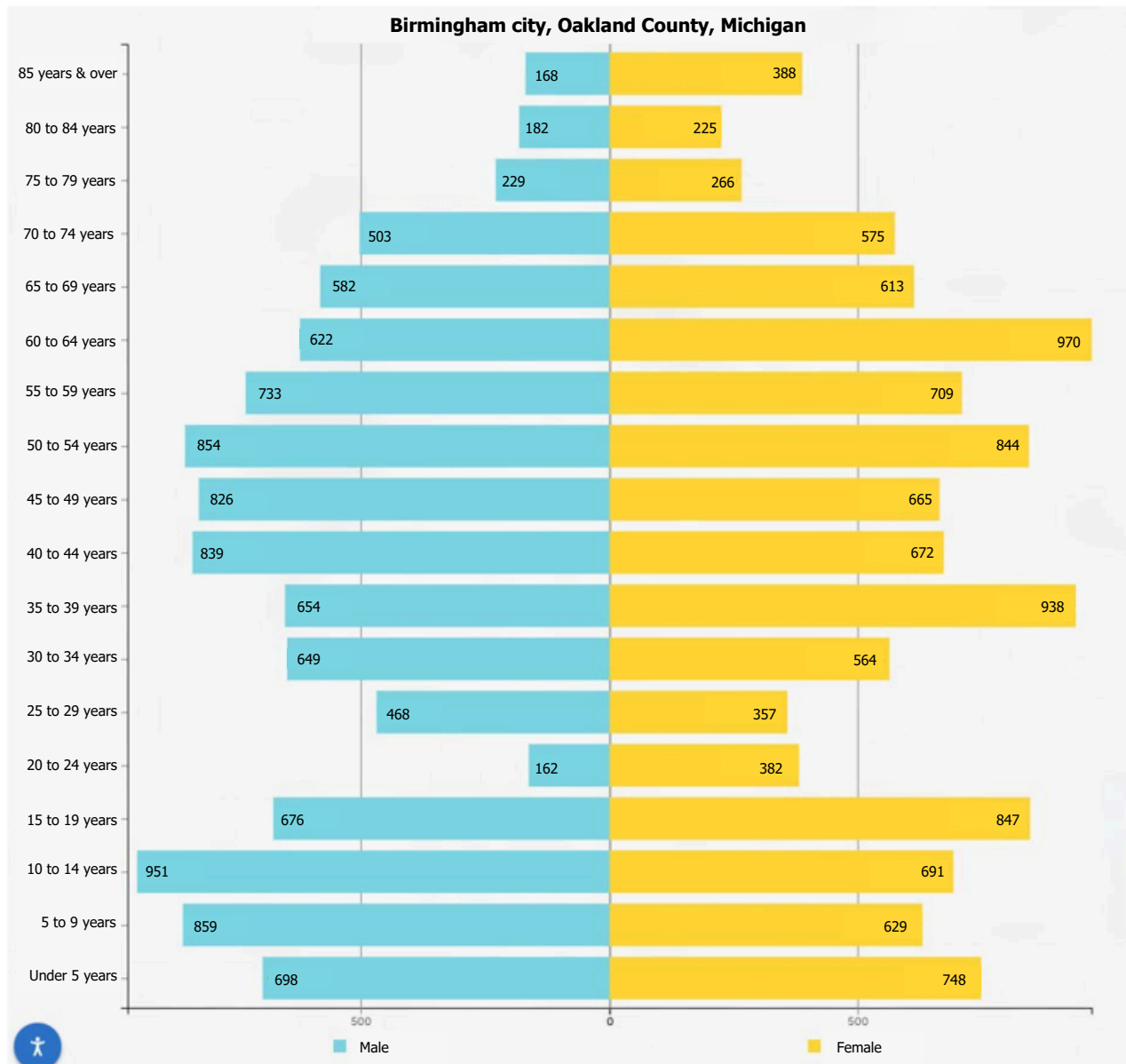
The AIPC examined demographic data that was related to the domains covered in the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan:

1. Total population analysis breakdown by age.
2. Population changes from 2010 to 2022.
3. Forecasted age population changes from 2020 to 2050.
4. Households with seniors 65 years of age or older changes from 2010 to 2022 and forecasted population changes to 2050.
5. Older adults and youth population changes from 2010 to 2022 and forecasted population changes to 2050.
6. Rapid growth of senior population in Southeast Michigan.
7. Decline in school-age children (ages 5-17).
8. Percent of residents 65 and older.
9. Percent of residents age 65 and older living alone.
10. Percent of residents ages 5 to 17 years of age.
11. Percent of residents living in poverty.
12. Household types.
13. Percent of households with seniors.
14. Average household size.
15. Median housing value.



Demographic Data and Charts

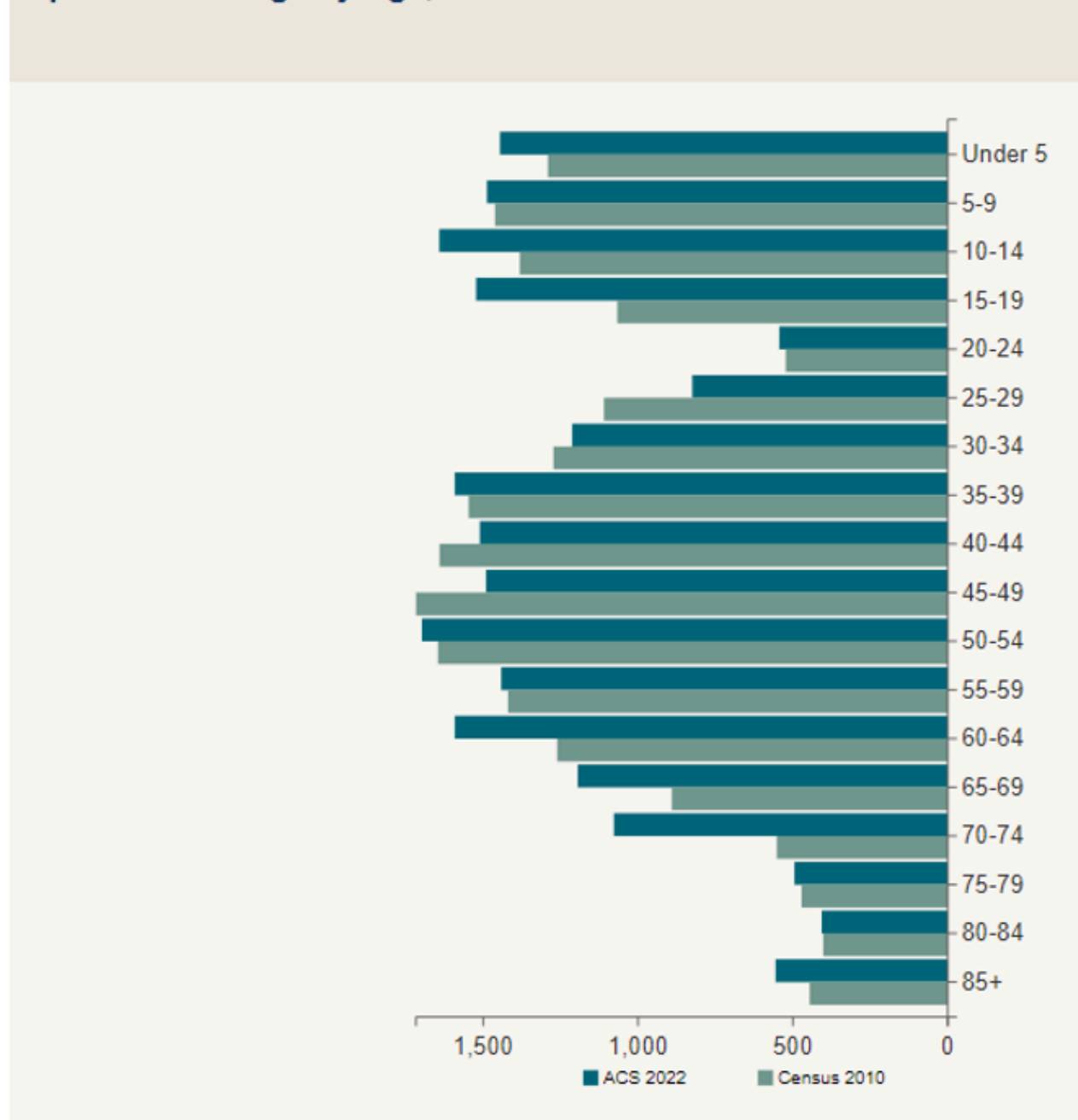
The most recent official United States Census Bureau data for the City of Birmingham, Michigan is from April of 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau indicated that the City had a total population of 21,813. The median age for the City is 42.0. The following chart below is also from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau for the City and covers the age breakdown of residents and the ratio of males (blue) to females (yellow):



Source: 2020 United States Census Bureau

The following two charts came from SEMCOG and show the population change for the City between 2010 and 2022 for all age populations. The key take away from these charts is that every age category for the City after age 49 shows an increase in numbers.

Population Change by Age, 2010-2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Decennial Census and 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The SEMCOG chart below shows the population change for the City between 2010 and 2022 for all age populations.

Age Group	Census 2010	Change 2000-2010	ACS 2022	Change 2010-2022
Under 5	1,291	-40	1,446	155
5-9	1,462	284	1,488	26
10-14	1,382	347	1,642	260
15-19	1,067	315	1,523	456
20-24	523	-21	544	21
25-29	1,110	-321	825	-285
30-34	1,273	-583	1,213	-60
35-39	1,547	-227	1,592	45
40-44	1,641	-36	1,511	-130
45-49	1,717	168	1,491	-226
50-54	1,646	138	1,698	52
55-59	1,420	248	1,442	22
60-64	1,261	477	1,592	331
65-69	891	263	1,195	304
70-74	552	-145	1,078	526
75-79	472	-121	495	23
80-84	402	-46	407	5
85+	446	112	556	110
Total	20,103	812	21,738	1,635
Median Age	41.1	1.8	42	0.9

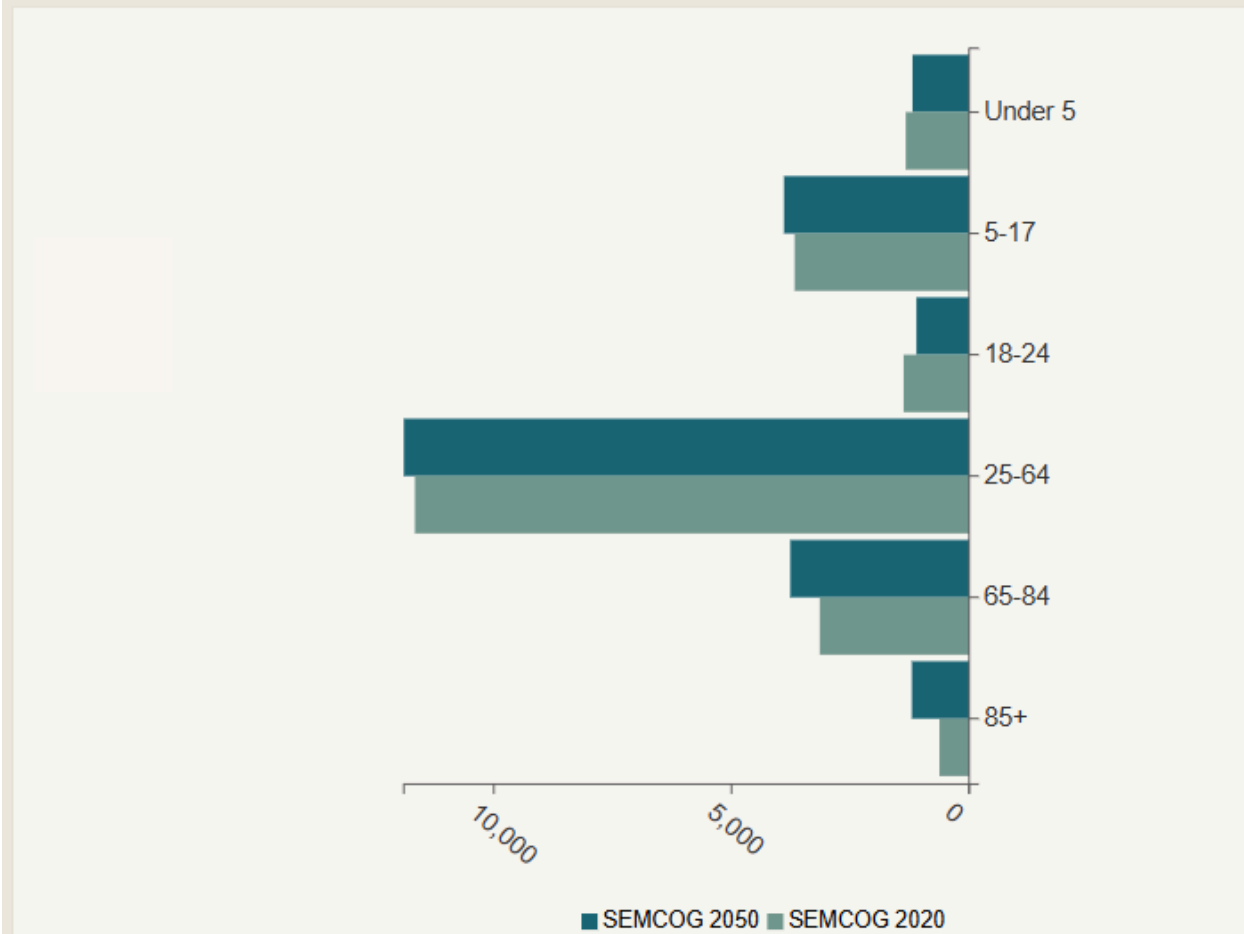
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, and 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

In both the U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG data, the highest age population category in Birmingham is adults age 50-54. Interestingly, the number of children from age 0-19 was only 13% higher than the number of adults over the age of 60. The charts clearly show a large increase coming from the 50-59 years of age category in the near future. This supports the theory that the City's older adult population is increasing rapidly.

In 2023, SEMCOG completed the "SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast" for presentation to the SEMCOG Executive Committee. On SEMCOG's City of Birmingham Community Profile, the following chart forecasted the population change for the City between 2020 and 2050. Three key points jump out from the chart: **a 19.8% increase in the number of 65 to 84 age population, a 92.7% increase in the over 85 age population and finally, a 19.5% decrease in the 18 to 24 age population.** This chart is very important for the City to consider for forecasting purposes as it relates to the service needs of the City's population.



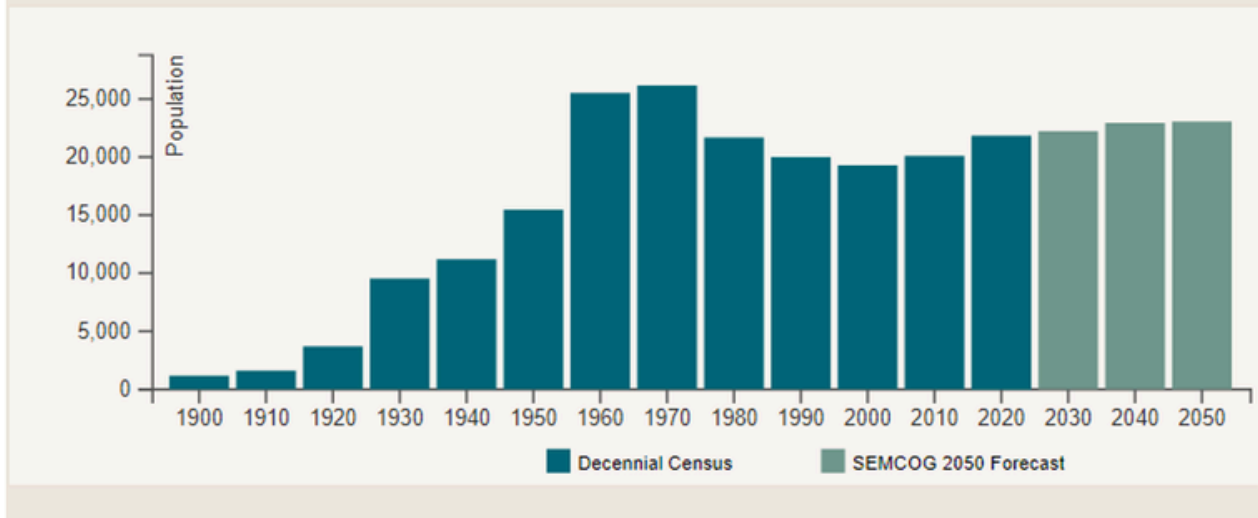
Forecasted Population Change 2020-2050



Age Group	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	Change 2020 - 2050	Pct Change 2020 - 2050
Under 5	1,333	1,238	1,293	1,306	1,303	1,327	1,192	-141	-10.6%
5-17	3,673	3,629	3,585	3,646	3,785	3,840	3,897	224	6.1%
18-24	1,379	1,352	1,290	1,248	1,113	1,039	1,110	-269	-19.5%
25-64	11,660	11,278	11,472	11,814	11,853	11,996	11,894	234	2%
65-84	3,142	3,531	3,918	3,944	3,902	3,864	3,763	621	19.8%
85+	626	547	671	807	990	998	1,206	580	92.7%
Total	21,813	21,575	22,229	22,765	22,946	23,064	23,062	1,249	5.7%

Source: SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

Population Forecast



Note for City of Birmingham : Incorporated in 1933 from Village of Birmingham. Population numbers prior to 1933 are of the village.

From 2010 to 2022, Birmingham's over 65 age population (up 35%) and the City's under age 18 population (up 15.8%) have grown significantly. However, according to SEMCOG's City of Birmingham Community Profile, The City's over age 65 population is forecasted to continue to increase by 2050 (up approximately 25%), while the under 18 age population is expected to decrease by 2050 (down approximately 11%).

Older Adults and Youth Populations

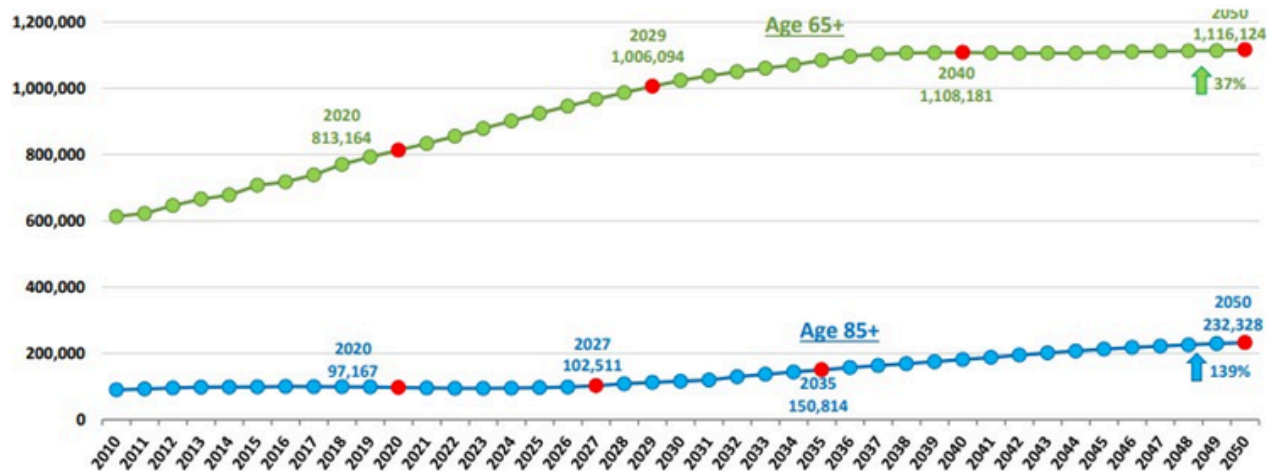
Older Adults and Youth Population	Census 2010	ACS 2022	Change 2010-2022	Pct Change 2010-2022	SEMCOG 2050
65 and over	2,763	3,731	968	35%	4,969
65 to 84	2,317	3,175	858	37%	3,763
85 and Over	446	556	110	24.7%	1,206
Under 18	4,939	5,720	781	15.8%	5,089
5 to 17	3,648	4,274	626	17.2%	3,897
Under 5	1,291	1,446	155	12%	1,192

Note: Population by age changes over time because of the aging of people into older age groups, the movement of people, and the occurrence of births and deaths.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, and SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

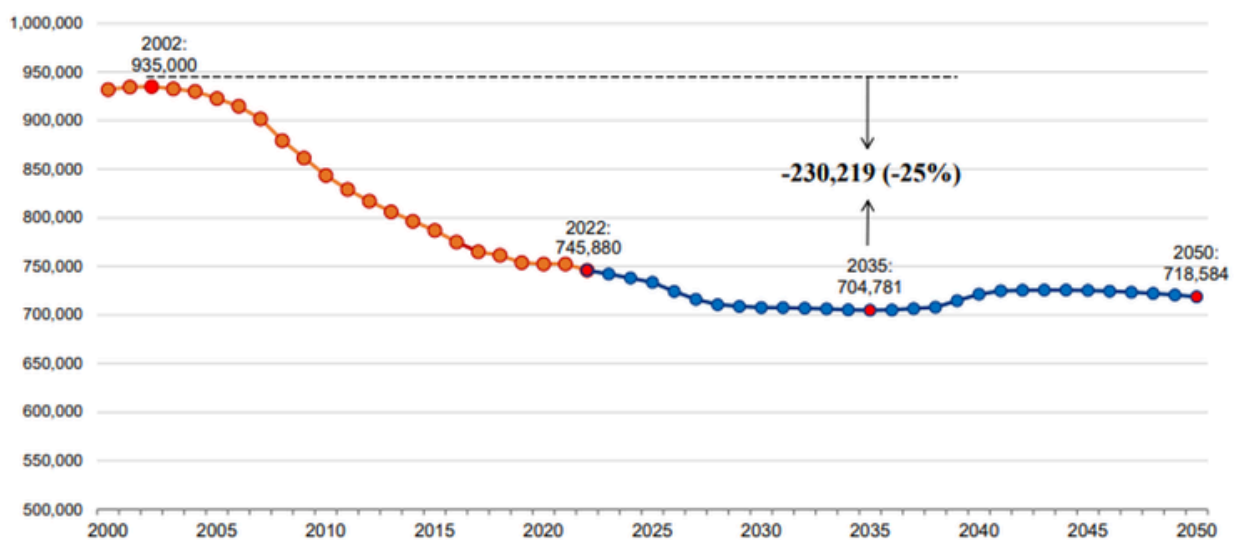
In Southeast Michigan, the senior population is growing rapidly while the school age population (ages 5-17) is declining in population (SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast).

Rapid Growth of Senior Population - Southeast Michigan



Source: SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

Declining School Age Population (Ages 5-17) - Southeast Michigan



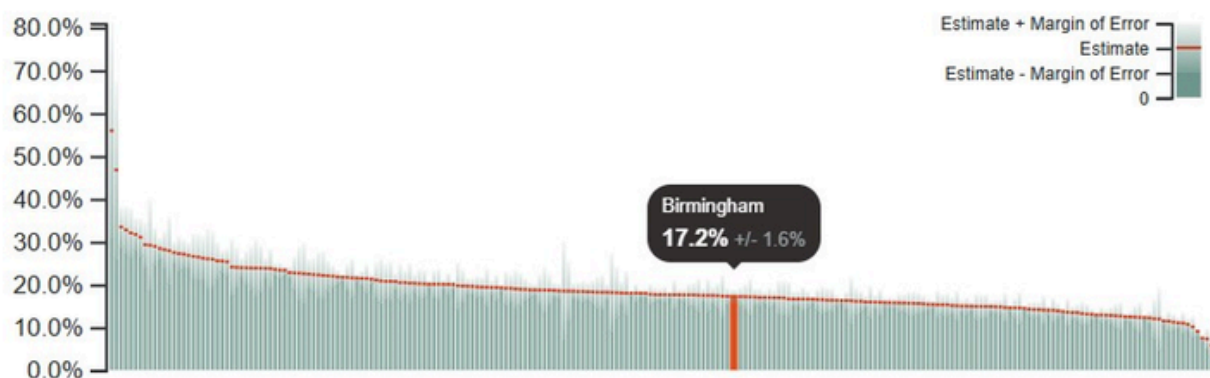
Source: SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

Currently, Birmingham's 65 and older population make up 17.2% of Birmingham's population (3,752 residents). Included in the chart is also the 65 and older population percentage for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of Birmingham in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Percent Age 65+

Southeast Michigan: 16.8%

Oakland County: 17.5%



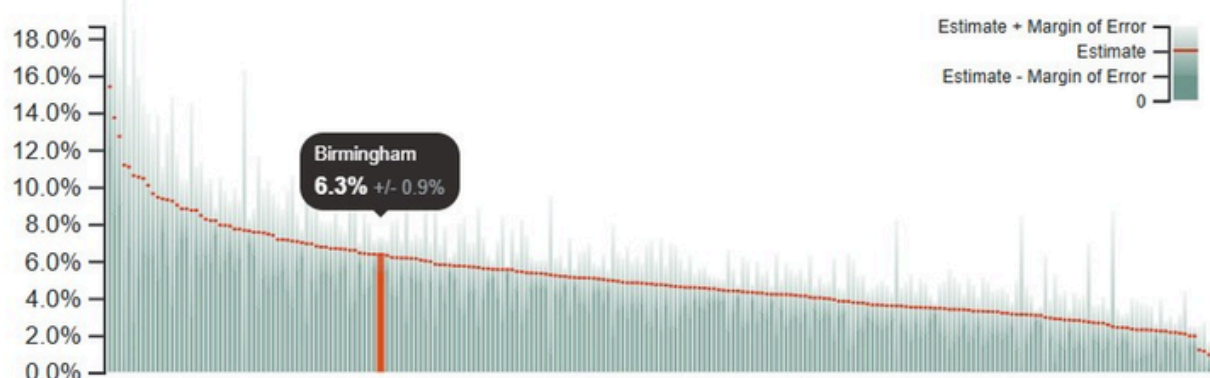
Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

Birmingham's 65 and older population that currently lives alone make up 6.3% of the City's population (1,375 residents). Included in the chart is also the 65 and older population percentage that lives alone for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of Birmingham in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Percent Age 65+ Living Alone

Southeast Michigan: 5.0%

Oakland County: 5.2%

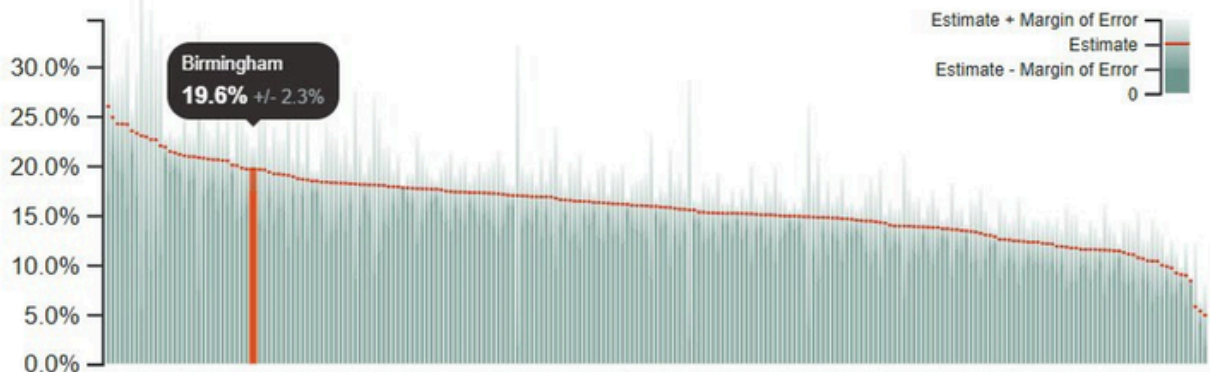


Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

Birmingham's percentage of individuals between the ages of 5 to 17 years of age is 19.6% of the City's population. Included in the chart is also the percentage of individuals between the ages of 5-17 years of age for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of the City in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Percent Ages 5 to 17

Southeast Michigan: 15.9%
Oakland County: 15.2%

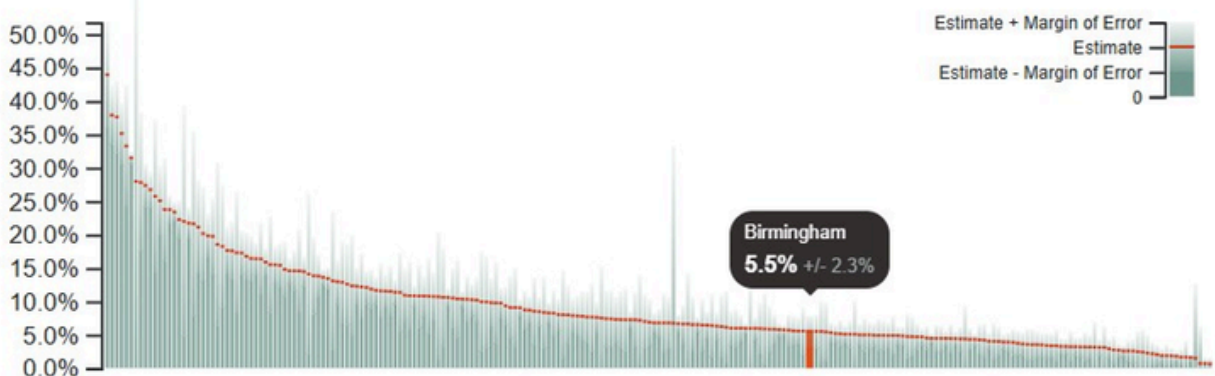


Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

The percentage of people currently living in poverty in Birmingham was 5.5% of the City's population (1,200 residents). Poverty is defined as person with an annual income of less than \$30,000 per year. Included in the chart is also the percentage of people living in poverty for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of the City in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Percent People in Poverty

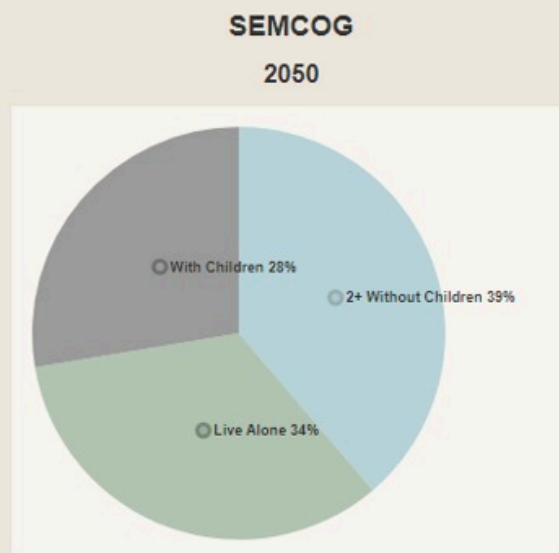
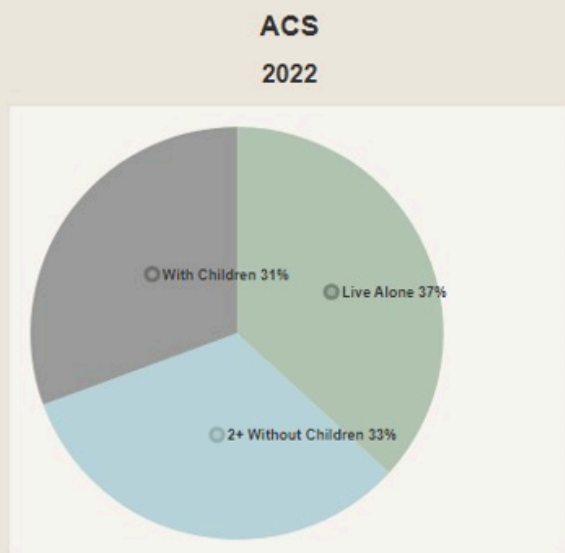
Southeast Michigan: 13.3%
Oakland County: 7.7%



Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

SEMOG's Community Profile for Birmingham showed a very interesting trend in regards to households with seniors age 65 and older. From 2010 to 2022, the percentage of households that had a senior 65 or older went up 38.3% while households without seniors fell 6.6%. Also, seniors age 65 and older living alone rose 42% in this same time frame while people under the age of 65 living alone fell 10%.

Household Types



Household Types	Census 2010	ACS 2022	Change 2010-2022	Pct Change 2010-2022	SEMOG 2050
With Seniors 65+	2,087	2,887	800	38.3%	3,596
Without Seniors	6,952	6,496	-456	-6.6%	6,461
Live Alone, 65+	969	1,376	407	42%	-
Live Alone, <65	2,307	2,077	-230	-10%	-
2+ Persons, With children	2,695	2,873	178	6.6%	2,779
2+ Persons, Without children	3,068	3,057	-11	-0.4%	3,897
Total Households	9,039	9,383	344	3.8%	10,057

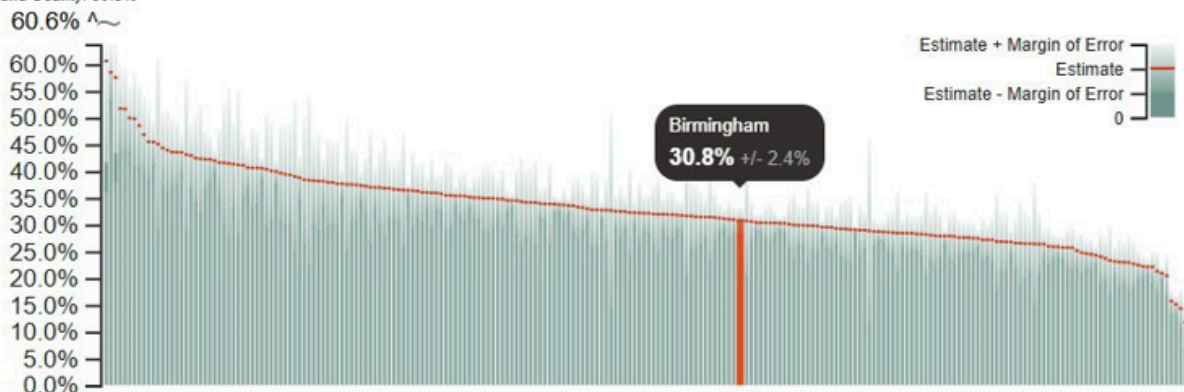
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, and SEMOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast

The percentage of households with a senior living in the household was 30.8% of the total households in Birmingham (2,992 households). Included in the chart is also the percentage of households with a senior for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of the City in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Percent Households with Seniors

Southeast Michigan: 30.7%

Oakland County: 30.5%



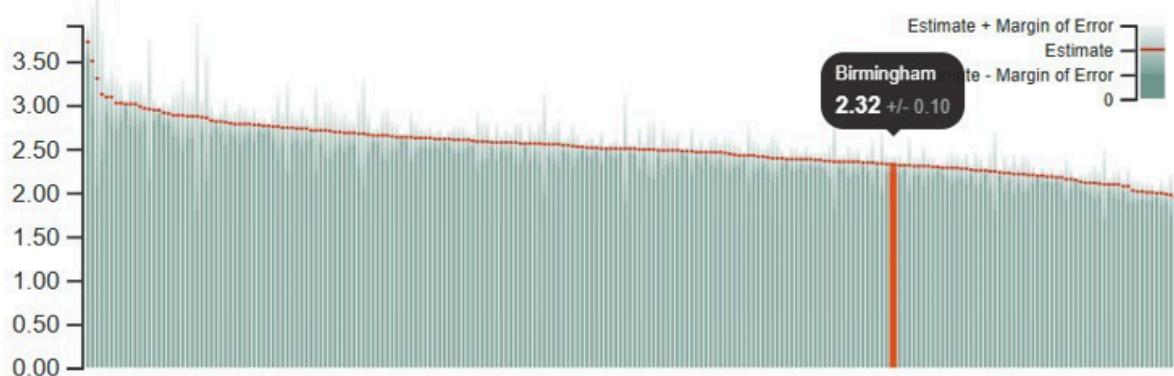
Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

The average household size in Birmingham was 2.32 people per household. Included in the chart is also the average household size for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of the City in SEMCOG's Data Base).

Average Household Size

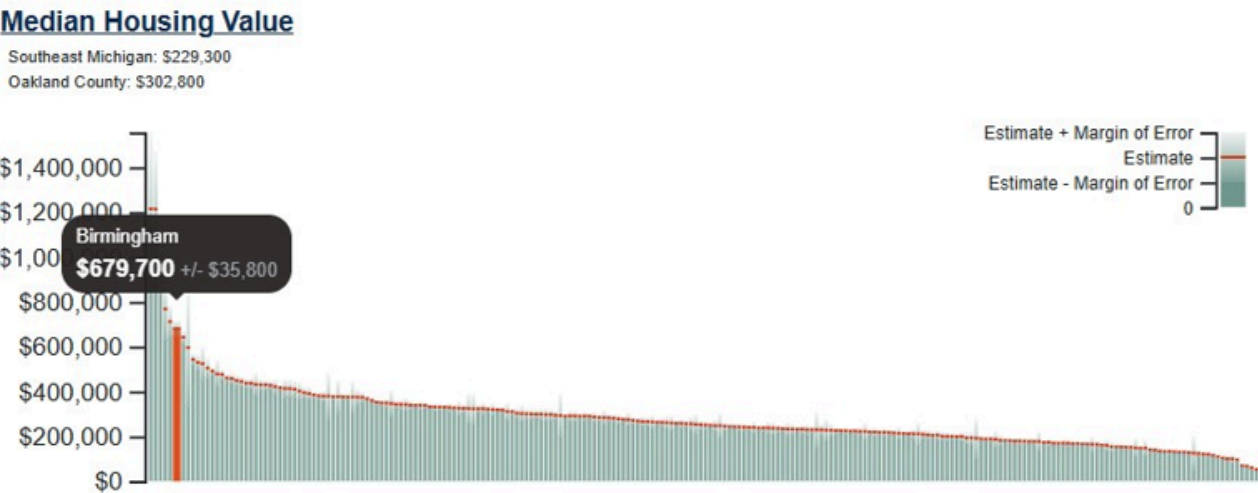
Southeast Michigan: 2.51

Oakland County: 2.40



Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles

According to SEMCOG, the median housing value in the City was \$679,700. The City’s median housing value is well above both Oakland County and Southeast Michigan. It should also be noted that according to the Oakland County Equalization Department, Office of Management and Budget, the average selling price for a home in the City in 2023 was \$904,917. Included in the chart is also the median housing values for both Southeast Michigan and for Oakland County (Community Profile of the City in SEMCOG’s Data Base).



Source: SEMCOG Community Profiles



Demographic Data and Summary Analysis

In considering aging in place, key points of available demographic data and projections are as follows:

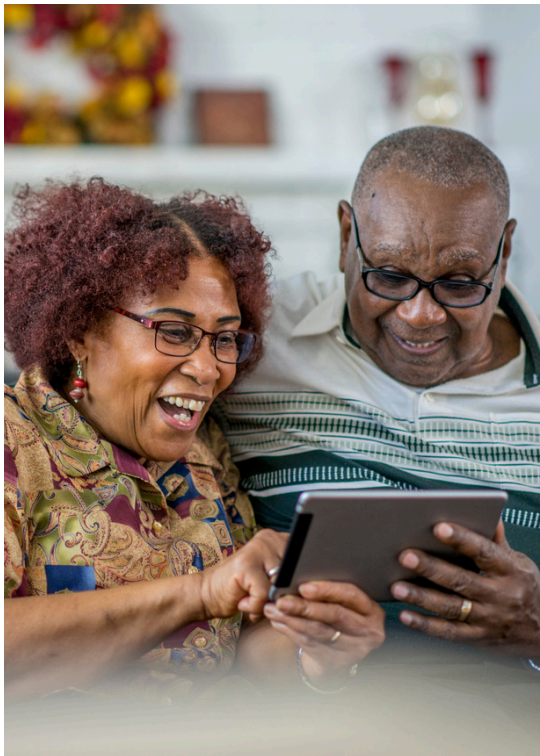
1. The largest population of residents in Birmingham are between 50 and 54 years of age.
2. Three of the top four population changes in Birmingham between 2010 and 2022 were in the age populations between 60 and 74 years of age categories.
3. The forecasted population changes for Birmingham indicate that between 2020 and 2050, the largest two age populations growing by percentage will be residents age 65 to 84 and people over the age of 85.
4. The percentage of households in Birmingham with a resident age 65 or older has gone up 38.3% from 2010 to 2022.
5. The percentage of adults age 65 and older living in the City between 2010 and 2022 has increased 35%. The percentage of residents age 18 and under went up only 15.8% in the same time period.
6. In Southeast Michigan, the population of persons over the age of 65 is projected to increase approximately 27% between 2020 and 2050. Conversely, the number of school age children (ages 5-17) is expected to fall approximately 4% over the same time period.
7. In Birmingham, 17.4% of the population is age 65 or older.
8. 19.6% of the City's population is ages 5 to 17.
9. 6.3% of the City's population are 65 or older and live alone.
10. 5.5% of the City's population live in poverty.
11. The average household size is 2.32 people
12. The median housing value in 2023 was \$679,700. The average selling price was \$904,917.

Other demographic insights to consider for Southeast Michigan (based on SEMCOG data) from 2020 to 2050 include the following projections:

1. By 2028, the population of those age 65 and older will outnumber the population of children ages 0 to 17 for the first time in the region's history.
2. By 2028, one in five people in the region will be 65 years of age or older.
3. By 2029, the entire "baby boomer" generation will be at least 65 years of age or older.
4. The aging population will lead to a labor shortage.
5. The region will be older and more racially and ethnically diverse.
6. The region will also experience significant demographic transitions in the coming years because of declining birth rates and an aging population.

Conclusion

It is clear from the data analyzed by the AIPC that Birmingham's population is aging. Data shows that the City's population is getting older and that a larger number of older adults will be living alone. Based on housing costs, alternative options for aging in Birmingham are limited. As has been previously discussed, the vast majority of the City's residents want to stay in their homes as they age for as long as possible for financial reasons and to retain their independence.



SECTION 2

Review of Existing Senior Services

Next, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, provides senior/older adult services for the City and three surrounding communities (Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) as well as residents from numerous other communities that independently chose Next to be their senior/older adult services provider. The City has no formal senior/older adult department or municipal office. Senior/older adult services are not addressed in the City Charter (for a complete history of senior/older adult services, please see the **Background** section of this report on page 8).



The City posts a “senior services” section on the City’s website that lists City services and opportunities for seniors. These services include:

1. Birmingham Fire Department:
 - File of Life - A single document containing critical information including medical history, emergency contacts and medications
 - Home safety inspections
 - Lift assists (for residents who fall)
 - Free blood pressure checks
 - Knox Box Loaner Program - The Knox Box allows the resident to place a home key inside allowing easy access for the fire department when needed
 - Carbon monoxide detector installation
 - Smoke detector installation
 - When appropriate, seniors are provided information about Next or the Area Agency on Aging contact information
2. Birmingham Police Department:
 - Adopt A Senior Program - Officers provide companionship and assistance when needed. Many seniors live alone and have no nearby relatives. Officers perform small household chores, run errands during their breaks or before or after their assigned shift and periodically visit seniors to check their welfare.
3. Birmingham Museum:
 - Senior rates for admission to the museum; barrier-free accessibility of both the Allen House and the Hunter House
 - Free adult lecture series at the Baldwin Library and ample virtual and video content of local history presentations
 - Specialized group tours with reduced rates for seniors
 - Senior-friendly Facebook content and active social media engagement
 - Research questions and services; information and referral
 - Ability to create senior-specific programs that draw on personal and community shared history
4. Birmingham Golf Courses:
 - Seniors enjoy discounted rates at Birmingham's golf courses.

5. Baldwin Public Library

- Computer Classes - Baldwin's classes are offered virtually and in person with our mobile computer lab.
- Curbside Pickup - Save time and parking costs while Baldwin staff deliver your materials directly to your vehicle. This service is available 7 days a week.
- Gale Legal Forms - Download and edit a wide selection of essential Michigan-specific legal forms that may be customized for the most common legal procedures. These forms are used by attorneys and law firms and include real estate contracts, wills, premarital agreements, bankruptcy, divorce, landlord tenant, and many others.
- Home Delivery - Residents from Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Bloomfield Hills can choose from books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks and magnifiers and have them delivered to their homes through USPS mail in a heavy-duty canvas bag. When finished with the items, simply return them in the canvas bag using the enclosed postage.
- Lifelong Learning - In this program devoted to lifelong learning, a friendly group of retired, semi-retired and curious people explore topics and present their findings with the group. This recurring weekly series meets on Wednesday mornings during the fall and winter months.
- Low Vision Aids - Baldwin offers various services for vision-impaired patrons, including audiobooks on CD, eAudiobooks and eBooks, large print materials, and magnifiers.
- MeLCat is the easy-to-use interlibrary loan system that allows Michigan library cardholders in good standing to borrow books and other library materials from over 450 participating Michigan libraries. Items requested through MeLCat are delivered to Baldwin and circulate for either two weeks or four weeks.
- Michigan Activity Pass - Enjoy complimentary or reduced admission at more than 440 cultural institutions, including nature centers, historical sites, museums, Oakland County parks, and every Michigan state park.
- Oakland Talking Book Service (<http://otbs.rhpl.org/>) - This free service, administered by the Rochester Hills Public Library, loans talking books and magazines, large print books, Braille and talking book players to eligible Oakland County residents of all ages. If you are unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations, you should qualify. A talking book player and materials will be mailed at no cost as Free Matter for the Blind. In addition to mailed materials, all eligible individuals have access to tens of thousands of books and dozens of magazines available for download through the National Library Service's Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site.



Review of City Financial Support of Senior/Older Adult Services

The City budgets every year to support Next in providing senior/adult services. In fiscal year 2023-2024, the City budgeted \$126,632 for Next (General Fund). The City committed an additional \$23,236 to Next in the form of federal Community Development Block Grant funds. (CDBG). CDBG funds are reimbursement funds and are only for low income qualified individuals; funds are received by the City that are then reimbursed by the City to Next to assist with income qualified senior outreach services such as minor home repairs, lawn cutting and snow removal.

As clarified earlier in the **Background** section of this report, the City is part of an active interlocal agreement with the communities of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. The purpose of the interlocal agreement is to provide Next with a reliable source of revenue for the stabilization and predictability of its finances in order to serve the seniors residing in the various governmental units. As previously noted, the interlocal agreement provides Next with approximately 18% of their total operating budget.

The City of Birmingham is the only community of the four participating governmental units that sought a "senior millage" from its constituency under Michigan Compiled Law 400.576, which authorizes local governments to levy up to 1 mill in millage for services to older citizens. A senior millage does not count towards a government's maximum Headlee tax rate. The City's current three-year Senior Millage of .33 of 1 mill (approved by voters in November of 2023 for the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027) was specifically approved to "enable the City to make interim improvements to the YMCA building and to establish a sinking fund to contribute toward the cost of permanent improvements to the building for use as a senior/recreation center in the future."



Next Operating Budget

The 2023-2024 Next budget was approximately \$1,036,250. The four participating municipalities contributed a total of \$185,000. The Birmingham Public Schools contributed \$310,000 in “in-kind” revenues in the form of no-cost rent. Next’s 2023-2024 budget showed expenses equal to revenues. Remaining revenues of \$541,250 came from the following sources:

- Business sponsorships
- Philanthropy/donations
- Planned giving
- Fundraisers
- Membership fees
- Grants
- Transportation
- Program fees

Next has 14 staff members, of which only two are full time employees and the remaining 12 are part time employees. Next offers no benefits to any staff members. All instructors at Next are contract employees and receive a form 1099 at the end of the year, which allows Next to avoid paying employment taxes, FICA and Social Security. Next relies on an army of volunteers to support their events and programming. Volunteers provide over 3,885 hours of service per year to Next or approximately \$174,270 in equivalent personnel savings. These volunteers allow Next to keep their costs down and are an invaluable asset to Next operations.

Remaining 2023-2024 expenses resulted from the following:

- Operating
- Facilities & Overhead
- Fundraising
- Hospitality
- Marketing & Newsletter
- Programming
- Transportation
- Outreach

Next Building

Next is currently housed within a former elementary school (Midvale School, 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, MI) in the Birmingham Public School District (BPS). Midvale is also the current location for BPS's Early Childhood Center. The two organizations share the building and the adjacent parking lot. Next operates out of approximately 10,000 square feet of space: (5) rooms, some small office space, a large lobby and the shared use of one gymnasium (one pickleball court in size). There are fitness machines located outside the building in an adjacent courtyard.

BPS provides the building space to Next at no cost as a benefit for the entire BPS community for older adults. While this has been a mutually beneficial relationship for many years, Next has outgrown the space and BPS is looking to expand their Early Childhood Center offerings within the district which would require more space. Next operations are limited to available space and in hours of operation so as to avoid conflict with the drop-off and pick-up times of the Early Childhood Center. The gymnasium is shared between the two entities and results in limited physical offerings and/or pickleball opportunities. Additionally, if a program exceeds more than fifty people in size, it must be moved from the largest multi-purpose room into an available Next time slot in the gymnasium. This results in other regularly scheduled programming in the gymnasium being canceled. Next office space is very limited, consisting of one private office, three small shared offices and a general reception desk office area. There is no space for private meetings between members and staff other than a multi-purpose room if available.

On the plus side, the current Next building lobby is used extensively by members for playing cards, social conversations and other small group gatherings and is looked at very positively by members as a warm and inviting space. Next offers a complimentary beverage and coffee serving station and limited food offerings. Next has a computer room to provide access for older adults who have no home internet service, valuable computer training to enhance skills and a library space that also serves as a general purpose room. While certainly not ideal for a variety of reasons, the current home for Next has functioned to the best of its abilities and BPS should be commended for providing Next a home at a very reasonable cost for more than forty-five years.

Review of Next Services

The mission of Next is to be a welcoming place that enriches the lives of its members and the community. Next is guided by the following principles:

- To be a recognized leader in serving the community
- To deliver lifelong learning and wellness through comprehensive programming
- To be an integral part of the larger community
- To provide exceptional customer service

The Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) spent a considerable amount of time examining Next's service offerings, as well as other providers in the area, including Oakland County and the State of Michigan (Area Agency on Aging or AAA 1-B). It became apparent to the AIPC that the programming and service offerings of Next met or exceeded most of the other senior/older adult service providers.

As discussed in the **Process** section of this report, the AIPC Community Survey was designed with senior services and needs in mind. It also provided the AIPC with the ability to directly communicate with the entire community, not just seniors/older adults. The AIPC also held two community meetings to directly engage the public in order to receive input from a wide demographic and age range of respondents.



Programming

Next offers over 230 offerings each month, including, but not limited to:

- Thursday evening speaker series
- Henry Ford Health partnership
- Unique daytime presentations
- Entertainment including music, dance, comedy and more
- Fitness - pickleball, yoga, tai chi, strength training, aerobics, golf, softball, bowling, line dancing and tennis
- Art - painting, pottery, drawing, photography, writing
- Card games & clubs
- Discussion groups & special interest groups
- Opportunities to meet and socialize



Support Services

Next offers a comprehensive list of support services to the community that provide valuable lifelines to those who are in need of extra assistance in order to remain healthy and independent. Residents do not need to be a member of Next to receive support services.

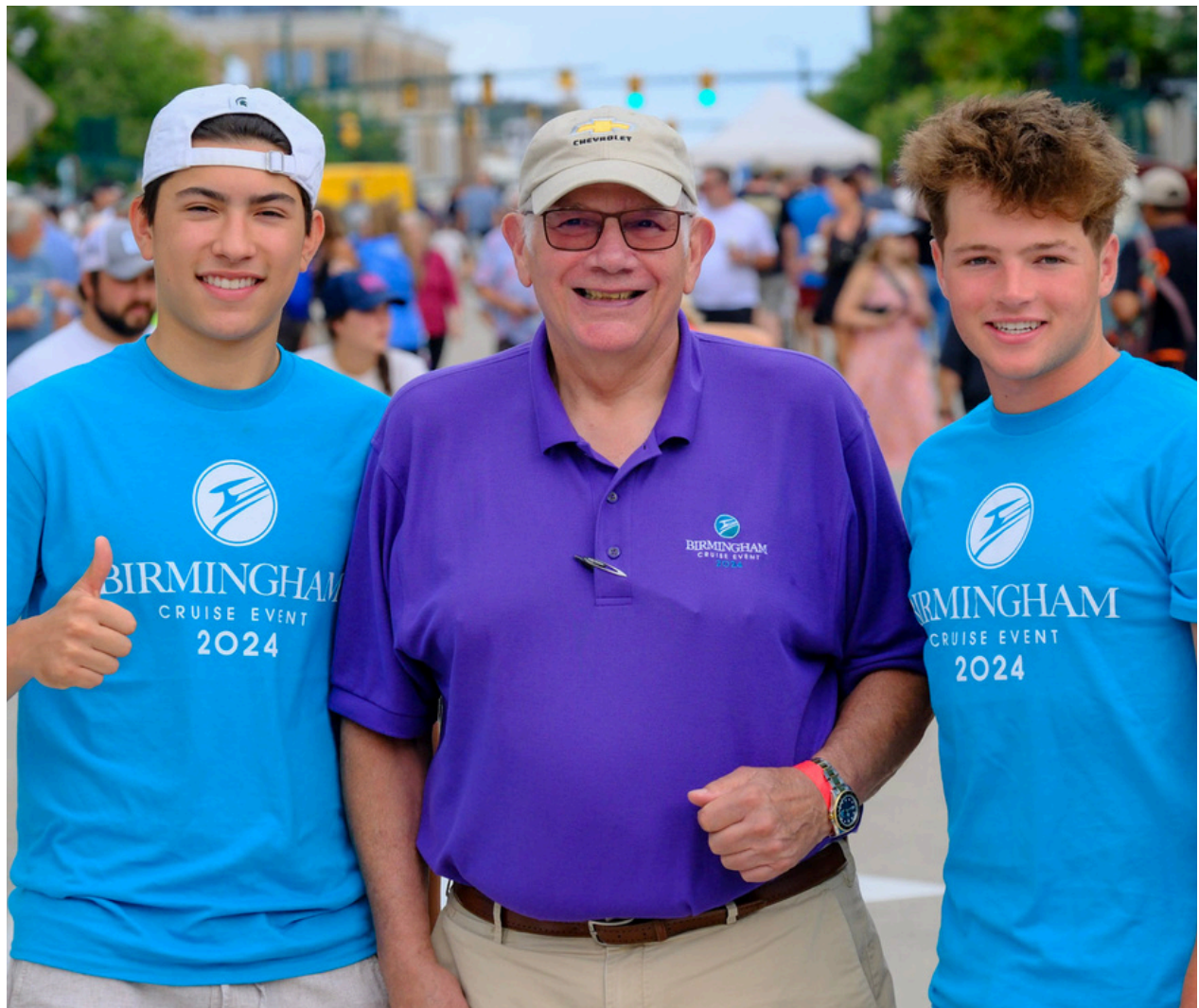
Many of these support services are unknown to the community for a variety of reasons; most notably, many people are simply not aware of these services because they have not needed them yet. Next's support services include:

- Reliable transportation to important appointments (SMART transportation services)
- Meals on Wheels
- Medical equipment loaner program
- Yard maintenance & minor home repair programs
- Nutritional support & health screenings
- Information and referrals to area resources
- Home loans for major repairs



Aging in Place Committee Identification of Senior/Older Adult Service Needs

The single greatest senior/older adult service need is a facility to house Next that will allow the organization the space it needs to continue to not only meet senior/older adult needs, but also to acquire the space, support and financial assistance necessary to meet the challenges identified in the AIPC Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan. The Ad Hoc Senior Center Committee (SCC) Vision Statement summed it up best—the City wants to create “a welcoming and dynamic hub where all the members of the community can gather in an environment that promotes socialization, physical activity and lifelong learning that enhance both personal and community wellness.” The new senior/recreation center project is a critical component in addressing not only senior/older adult services, but also for also offering the opportunity to create a civic space for all members of the community.



In considering aging in place, the AIPC carefully reviewed the service offerings available, not only in Birmingham, but also in our adjacent communities (interlocal partners), as well as the offerings from both the county and state programs. Analysis and review of this data and the results of the AIPC Community Survey identified areas of service interest needs that guided the AIPC as they developed the Citywide Aging in Place Action Plan. These included:

- 69% of respondents were familiar with Next as the City's primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults, but only 38% were familiar with Next's comprehensive support services.
- When asked what the most pressing support services were needed by respondents, the number one support service need identified was minor home repair/modifications. Snow removal and yard work were also identified as important needs. Respondents also provided numerous comments about the need for a reliable and affordable "handy-man" service listing.
- 95% of respondents indicated that they had adequate personal transportation, which was higher than anticipated. However, when asked whether or not they were familiar with the City's partnership with Next to provide SMART transportation, 41% stated that they were not and another 26% were neutral.
- 57% of respondents felt they had a support system in place to assist them as they age, while 30% were neutral on the issue. 13% of respondents felt they did not have a support system in place.
- 61% of respondents indicated the affordability of housing in Birmingham was a factor in their decision on whether to remain in Birmingham or not.
- 40% of respondents indicated that stairs or other barriers were their greatest concern regarding their ability to age in place in their homes.
- Regarding alternative housing options, the most popular was senior living facilities at 35%. Interestingly, small/tiny homes was the second most popular option at 24% and rental units were third at 16%. This suggests that serious consideration should be given to updating the City's zoning ordinances to promote senior living options and home modifications.
- The lack of public restrooms has been a concern for some time in the City. The Community Survey indicated that only 14% of respondents felt that the City had adequate public restrooms.

- Communication is one of the most important components to an effective and responsive government. The Community Survey identified that City electronic newsletters/e-blasts were the most effective communication tool. Printed communications were also very important for seniors/older adults.
- 78% of survey respondents indicated they would like to volunteer to assist others. As it seems that the City, Next, or other community-based groups are always looking for volunteers, this begs the question of what we may be doing wrong that precludes us from understanding this dynamic and utilizing it for the betterment of all?
- 15% of respondents reported feeling isolated/being alone. The number was even higher for persons **under** the age of 65 (19%).

The above issues have been incorporated more specifically into the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.



SECTION 3

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

The Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan developed by the AIPC identifies goals that relate to the AARP's nationally recognized "8 Domains of Livability" as they specifically relate to the City and our Next interlocal partners.

For Birmingham, the AIPC identified five relevant domains:

- I. Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)
- II. Communication & Information
- III. Social & Civic Engagement
- IV. Housing
- V. Transportation

Each domain has a set of specific goals, with a total of nineteen (19) for the plan. For each goal, the plan lays out various tasks and/or activities that need to be implemented to achieve the stated goal. As with any action plan, the AIPC also identified who is best suited to work on the task, what resources would be necessary to accomplish the task, what a proposed timeline would look like to achieve the task and the eventual goal achievement.



The goals developed were designed to build upon an already strong system provided by Next to become an even stronger one that addresses previous shortfalls and seeks to be inclusive, welcoming and accessible to all our seniors/older adults. The work of the AIPC has been open and transparent to the public and has included feedback both at regular meetings and public engagement sessions. AIPC meetings at City Hall were hybrid, both in person and online (via Zoom). The dates, agendas, packets and minutes for all AIPC meetings were published on the City's website.

The AIPC requests that the implementation of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan be given a high priority by the City Commission, City staff, Next, the senior/older adult population and the community itself. By implementing the plan together, we will be able to address each goal and build a community where our seniors/older adults are valued and are able to maintain independent, fulfilling and meaningful lives as they age in Birmingham.



I. Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

Summary

This domain is the very fabric of the City Commission's commitment to finding a facility to house Next, the City's dedicated senior services provider. Many of our residents have lived in the City for a long period of time and have a strong desire to age in their homes. Providing our older adults with a facility where senior services, physical activities and socialization are readily available is critically important.

Respondents to the Community Survey had very favorable experiences with City services, including feeling very safe in their homes, being very satisfied with the City's police, fire and public services, feeling that they have adequate health care and are healthy enough to age in place with an adequate support system in place. The City's walkability, civic destinations and parks were also well received.

A significant amount of time was spent by the AIPC discussing Next and the services they provide which were covered earlier in this report. Next is doing a very good job of providing older adult services. Communication needs to improve so that all of the comprehensive support services offered by Next are known to the public. In terms of support services, home repairs/modifications, snow removal and grass cutting were the most commonly mentioned needed support services.

According to information received from respondents to the Community Survey:

- 80% indicated that they wanted to remain in Birmingham as they age.
- When asked what features about Birmingham were the most important for older adults, the top answer was "safe neighborhoods." The second most popular feature was "walkability."
- 91% felt that the City's police, fire and public services met their needs.
- 88% indicated that the City has accessible parks and facilities.
- 57% indicated that they had a support system in place to assist them as they age.
- 89% indicated that they have adequate health care and are healthy enough to age in their residence.
- 69% stated that they would support the continuation of a senior millage (one mill or less) for older adults.
- 69% indicated that they were aware of Next as being the City's primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults.
- Home repairs/modifications (41%), snow removal (37%) and grass cutting (24%) were support services most needed by older adults in the City.

1. GOAL: Develop a facility for senior services (age 50+) to house Next, the City's dedicated senior services provider, that will be a welcoming and dynamic hub where all members of the community can gather in an environment that promotes socialization, physical activity and lifelong learning that enhance both personal and community wellness.

- a. Provide Next with resources to deliver a wide range of programs and services.
- b. Design a facility that encourages social interactions, community connections and emotional enrichment for the community through the use of both indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.
- c. Design a facility that promotes health, fitness and recreational programming for the community.

2. GOAL: Establish a funding mechanism to support reliable and sustainable senior services (Next).

- a. Capitalize on strong community support for older adults by asking for a senior millage.
 - i. The Community Survey indicated that 69% of respondents were positive in their support of a continuation of a senior millage.
 - ii. The support for the continuation of the current senior millage mirrored the voting results from the original three year senior millage from 2023 by residents (69% were "Yes" and 31% were "No").
- b. Convene a committee of public officials representing all four communities covered in the interlocal agreement (Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) in their support of senior services (Next) to study and determine a mutually beneficial funding model where all four communities pay a representative share of operations and costs.
- c. Examine all avenues of financial support available to the City (conducted by City staff, interlocal partners, Next) to support older adults/senior services with all outside sources to assist with both the development of a facility to house senior services and the creation of a reliable and predictable funding mechanism.

3. GOAL: Continue to prioritize public services (police, fire, department of public services) that meet or exceed resident needs.

- a. Prioritize police, fire and department of public services operations. The Community Survey identified "safe neighborhoods" as the number one most important quality of Birmingham.
- b. Implement and deliver new community engagement programming and operational ideas by the police, fire and department of public services that support their missions in the delivery of services.

- c. Demonstrate and highlight to the community the high level of safety, security and services they currently receive. 95% of respondents in the Community Survey indicated that they felt safe in their homes. This feeling of safety is another reason why older adults want to age in place in their home in Birmingham. City staff and Next should utilize this data to emphasize the desirability of the City to older adults.

4. GOAL: Create an understanding among City residents that Next is the City's primary older adult service provider and to have the services offered by Next known and understood by the community.

- a. Develop a consistent outreach plan to increase awareness of all of the support services and assistance offered by Next.
 - i. Utilize the City Communications team to publicize service information and offerings in conjunction with Next.
 - ii. Hold a City Commission workshop on Next services.
 - iii. Hold in-person community workshops/meetings to enlighten the community about services provided by Next.
 - iv. Include a Next staff member at City staff meetings to further the communication connections between the City and Next.
 - v. Include Next at City community events to further publicize the relationship between Next and the City (DPS Open House, Fire Dept. Open House, Police Dept. Open House, Farmers Market and Library Events).

5. GOAL: Maintain a positive, cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the City, Next and the Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) as valued partners in serving the community.

- a. Establish what the new paradigm will be moving forward in the relationship between the City, Next and BPS.
- b. Demonstrate support for older adults' well-being and continued service offerings between the City, BPS, Next and the other three interlocal partners.

6. GOAL: Coordinate health care, housing and other resources as necessary to assist older adults who lack insurance, financial resources or other support systems by networking with local, county, state and federal agencies.

- a. Encourage City staff (police, fire, DPS, manager's office) and Next staff to have open lines of communication in this area in order to produce a guide or listserv of available resources and Next support service offerings.
- b. Maintain a strong relationship between Next and other community based organizations that support older adult services to ensure that as many service offerings as possible are known and being utilized by the City and other interlocal community partners including, but not limited to:
 - i. Ageways (formerly the Area Agencies on Aging 1-B) - State of Michigan
 - ii. Oakland County Office of Older Adult Services
 - iii. Other local senior centers/commissions/councils

II. Communication & Information

Summary

Information delivery comes in many different platforms. Both the City and Next recognize that older adult's communication methods and practices vary greatly and that communication with our older population is absolutely critical for their inclusion in our community and in their quality of life.

One of the key findings that the AIPC learned in this process was that there is a multitude of services available to older adults. Assembling this information will be critical in serving our older adult population.

The Community Survey revealed that most respondents were familiar with Next (69%) as the City's primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults. It also revealed that only 38% indicated that they were familiar with Next's comprehensive support services and only 33% stated that they were familiar with Next's partnership with the City and SMART to provide transportation services.

The Community Survey showed that respondents felt very strongly that the City's police, fire and public services meet their needs (95%). The police and fire department community outreach programs should continue to be emphasized as much as possible by the City.

According to information received from respondents to the Community Survey:

- Electronic Newsletters/Eblasts were the most popular communication platform and the second most popular platform was the City's Print Newsletter.
- After the age of 76, the most popular communication platform was the City's Print Newsletters.
- Social media was the least popular communication platform at just 29%.

1. GOAL: Create a multi-faceted communications model that uses numerous methods to ensure older adults have access to information about services and resources.

- a. Offer a variety of communication mechanisms to ensure the effective dissemination of information to older adults.
- b. Coordinate communication team members from the City, Next, BPS, Baldwin Public Library, Next interlocal partner communities and any other entity that this group feels is important to ensure a broader distribution of information to the community at large and to provide increased awareness of programming and other opportunities for older adults.

2. GOAL: Expand and enhance the City's media/communications plan promoting Next and all of Next's support services to enhance community knowledge of what Next has to offer.

- a. Establish Next as the City's and surrounding community's primary older adult services provider.
- b. Create community awareness that Next is available to provide assistance and answer questions.
- c. Create additional video content to enhance knowledge about Next for publication on the City's, Next's and other community's websites and local cable television stations.
- d. Update the City's website with current older adult service offerings and provide links to the resources.



III. Social & Civic Engagement

Summary

Socialization for older adults is important for many reasons. Socialization improves mental health, creates a sense of community or belonging, establishes a support system that allows for independence and assistance and improves cognitive function and physical health.

One of the most interesting takeaways from the Community Survey was how many respondents were interested in volunteering. It seems that the City or Next or other community groups are always looking for volunteers, but find few takers. Why is this? What are we doing wrong that precludes us from understanding this dynamic and utilizing it for the betterment of all? If 78% of the Community Survey respondents indicated that they want to volunteer, why aren't they? How do we reach these people?

Community Survey respondents followed a very similar pattern with the rest of the country in that as our community ages, a person is twice as likely to be living alone after age 55 than before and 91% of older adults after age 66 either live alone or in a two-person household.

In terms of employment, survey respondents indicated that they were "retired" (74%). Surprisingly, of that number, 82% were under the age of 65. Therefore, if the majority of respondents were retired people under the age of 65, what are they doing to occupy their time? The need for older adult services appears to be more of a necessity for this population with regard to activities and socialization.

The City's use of temporary or portable restroom facilities is a compromise with having permanent restroom accommodations. Only 14% of respondents felt that the City has adequate public restrooms. With the City Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan being updated, there will be an opportunity for more permanent restrooms throughout the park system, including at St. James Park. According to information received from respondents to the Community Survey:

- 78% indicated that they were satisfied with the City's civic destinations, outdoor spaces and facilities.
- 69% stated that they were satisfied with their social life and felt connected to the community.
- 78% stated that they were interested in volunteering their time to help others.
- 15% indicated that they were either looking to go back to work or were considering going back to work.

1. GOAL: Support enhanced senior services and programming to provide older adults with more opportunities for physical, mental and personal growth and development.

- a. Create clear and simple communication strategies to reach older adults who may not be aware of available older adult opportunities or services.
- b. Develop City programming (in partnership with Next) for older adults. For example, BSD Shopping Day/Night event, reduced pricing for seniors at coffee shops, bistros or restaurants or other special event activities like karaoke or live music catering to older adults.
- c. Formulate a plan to coordinate and advertise older adult programming opportunities from the City, other community partners (Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin), the Birmingham Public Schools and its Community Education Department.

2. GOAL: Create and promote community and social activities/opportunities for older adults.

- a. Plan future projects/programming around advancing and improving the areas that mean most to community members. As indicated in the Community Survey, the most important features of the City were: safe neighborhoods, walkability, the library/museum, community and social activities and the parks and trail systems.
- b. Increase communication to promote multiple social and community events from a variety of resources that include the City, the BSD, BPS, Next or any other community based organization.
- c. Coordinate a master list or calendar of event happenings to increase awareness of social and community activities available to older adults.
- d. Identify opportunities for older adults to attend BPS functions at no cost or a reduced cost. This includes activities like school plays, concerts, athletic events or other special events. These opportunities would provide inter-generational contacts.

3. GOAL: Become an "Age Friendly Community."

- a. Expand the role of the police community resource officer by adding an older adult's component in concert with Next to provide community outreach.
- b. Expand the role of the fire community resource officer by adding an older adult's component in concert with Next to provide community outreach.
- c. Explore the opportunities to become an AARP "Age Friendly Community" or a "Dementia Friendly Community" or any other designation that would enhance the City's reputation as being older adult friendly.

4. GOAL: Install permanent restrooms in neighborhood parks to make older adults comfortable participating in outside physical activity.

- a. Identify parks that are immediate candidates for restroom installation.
- b. Develop and formulate a plan to operate public restrooms in a safe and convenient manner.
- c. Include funding in the City's new Five-Year Master Park Plan to facilitate the addition of public restrooms.

5. GOAL: Connect older adults with volunteer opportunities.

- a. Explore existing volunteer opportunities and create awareness of those opportunities.
- b. Explore future opportunities for volunteering.
- c. Form an internal sub-committee at Next that focuses on the issue of volunteering and how to identify and recruit potential volunteers to fill service voids or needs.
- d. Create a volunteer page on both the City's and Next's respective websites that focuses solely on volunteerism.

6. GOAL: Provide older adults with assistance in examining employment opportunities in the community.

- a. Educate older adults about the availability of employment opportunities.
- b. Identify outside agency resources (local, county and state) that older adults could use to improve their employability.



IV. Housing

Summary

Birmingham's population is aging. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's (SEMCOG) Community Profile, the largest category of residents as of 2021 were individuals age 50 to 54 years old (9%). The second most populous age category in the City was age 60 to 64 (8%). In total, 40% of the City's population is age 50 or older. SEMCOG also projected that by 2028, the senior population (those age 65 and older) will outnumber children (those age 17 and under) for the first time and that 1 in 5 persons in the region will be age 65 or older. The average selling price of a home in Birmingham in 2023 was \$904,000. The type and variety of housing is a concern as well as the affordability of living options.

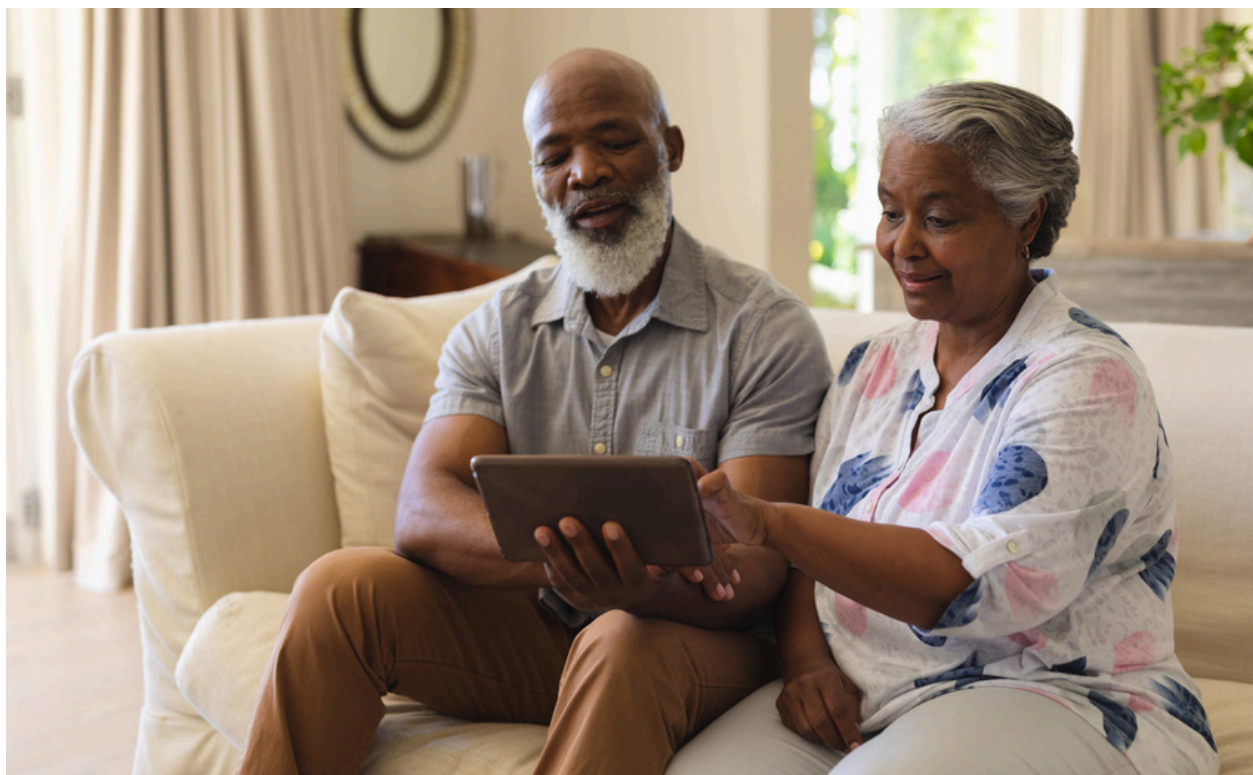
According to information received from respondents to the Community Survey:

- 95% indicated that they felt safe in their residence.
- 61% were concerned with the affordability of Birmingham as being a factor in their decision to remain in the City.
- 75% felt that Birmingham did not offer a variety of living options for older adults.
- 75% indicated that they were not able to modify their residence so that they may age in place.
- The biggest concerns for respondents as it relates to aging in place in their residence were stairs and other physical barriers (40%) and being unable to care for their property(32%).
- The top two alternative housing options that respondents were interested in were "senior living facilities" (35%) and "small/tiny" homes (24%).



1. GOAL: Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.

- a. Expand the support services department (currently two part-time employees) at Next that specializes in home services.
- b. Create a mechanism where all City staff, especially those in direct communication with the public, become mindful of older residents and other persons with special needs who may need assistance. This information needs to be conveyed to Next for follow-up.
- c. Create an inventory of “model” homes in the community that can be used as examples to others on how to better modify their homes to address physical barriers.
- d. Improve communication offerings by both Next and the City (on-line resources, print media, City/Next websites, E-blasts, programming at Next/Library) to promote service offerings related to home modifications, maintenance and barriers that are of concern to older adults.
- e. Explore volunteer networks to increase awareness of the multitude of service/community based organizations (Rotary Club, Senior Men’s/Women’s Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club) faith-based institutions, and public/private schools that offer services and/or assistance to older persons.
- f. Add a postcard to the City’s Welcome Packet specific to seniors that lists senior services and inquires about any special needs of new residents.



2. GOAL: Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.

- a. Actively pursue grant programs or government subsidy programs that would assist developers interested in senior housing.
- b. Research and seek out alternative forms of senior housing for potential pilot programs by encouraging private individuals to think outside the box.
These programs include:
 - i. House Sharing
 - ii. Co-Housing
 - iii. Programs where developers and/or neighborhood residents collaborate together to assist one another.
- c. Identify property within the City that could be developed for affordable senior housing.
- d. Explain property taxes in a public forum so that the public understands how taxes are levied, by whom, at what rate and where their tax dollars actually end up (who receives the tax revenue). The Community Survey respondents cited high taxes and property values as impediments to aging in place.
- e. Offer comprehensive in-person programming by Next with guest speakers on the topic of planning for the future. Topics to be considered include: housing costs (includes food, utilities property taxes and maintenance), transportation, health care (insurance costs), medications and additional discretionary funding for entertainment and/or travel.

3. GOAL: Modify the City's zoning ordinances to provide both incentives and options for older adult housing options.

- a. Prioritize the revisions to the City's zoning ordinances to encourage the pursuit of this goal in accordance with the City's 2040 Master Plan.
- b. Evaluate modifications to the City's zoning ordinances as they pertain to senior living facilities, small/tiny homes and auxiliary dwelling units.

4. GOAL: Increase the walkability of the City for older adults.

- a. Install level and well maintained sidewalks as a priority. Walkability was listed as the second most important feature of the City from the Community Survey. Older adults want to be able to walk more, walk safely and have adequate shade and resting locations.
- b. Install organized wayfinding (signage) with designated walking routes (with accompanying distances) as possible walkability enhancements.
- c. Make St. James Park an older adult friendly park with amenities specifically designed for older adults as part of the City's Five Year Master Park Plan.
- d. Ensure older adult safety and quality of life issues by the enforcement of City ordinances related to noise, construction sites (fencing, debris, hours of operation), property maintenance (grass, trees, shrubs) and snow removal by the City's Code Enforcement officers.
- e. Continue the City's existing sidewalk improvement plan with better communication about sidewalk repair work and enhancements to increase awareness of City efforts in this area.
- f. Examine the feasibility of providing snow sidewalk clearing for all residents.



V. Transportation

Summary

The vast majority of survey respondents indicated that they had adequate personal transportation. Fewer respondents knew that the City and Next have a cooperative agreement with the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) to assist those without personal transportation and/or other options to receive necessary transportation to address daily living needs (i.e. stores, pharmacy and/or medical appointments). There are numerous opportunities to advance service delivery to older adults through public and private support networks.

According to information received from respondents to the Community Survey:

- 95% indicated that they had adequate personal transportation.
- 33% indicated that they were familiar with the City's partnership with Next to provide SMART transportation services.



1. GOAL: Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for all older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.

- a. Promote and educate the public about the City's partnership with Next and the SMART Community Partnership Program for transportation services for local appointments/destinations.
- b. Explain what SMART is, how it works, how it is affiliated with Next and the City.
- c. Extend the hours of the Community Partnership Program bus operations to include operating after 6:00 pm.
- d. Extend the SMART FLEX program to the service area of Next. SMART FLEX works on an "on-demand" basis. Rides are not booked in advance. A client would book their ride shortly before they are ready to leave with an average wait time of 5 to 30 minutes (if available).
- e. Explain the SMART Connector Service. SMART Connector Service is an advance registration, curb-to-curb service within a 10-mile radius of a designated service area. Rides are available on a first come, first served basis and reservations are required. A six-business day notice is recommended for medical appointments and a two business day notice for other destinations.
- f. Inform the public about MyRide2.com, a transportation service provider that helps seniors and adults with disabilities in Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.
- g. Explore volunteer networks to see if those with adequate personal transportation and who have also indicated a desire to volunteer their time to assist others could somehow be connected in a way that was safe, legal and beneficial to everyone (rideshare/buddy ride program).
- h. Provide programming at Next to explain how transportation services such as Uber and Lyft work and assist older adults in setting up accounts and understanding how to use and pay for the services.

2. GOAL: Improve the feeling of safety and walkability by working with the Police Department to evaluate speed concerns, sign violations, failing to yield to pedestrians already in a crosswalk and/or crosswalk encroachment by vehicle violations and any parking related issues.

- a. Develop a media campaign and/or a traffic program highlighting actions taken to address pedestrian/bicycle related issues of safety created by City staff (Police Department, Communications Team).
- b. Coordinate a wayfinding program to improve walkability routes and safety measures coordinated by City staff (Police Department, Fire Department, Planning Department, Communications Team).

SECTION 4

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan — Spreadsheet Format

The final section is the actual Aging in Place Action Plan in spreadsheet form and contains the following:

1. Birmingham's five domains of livability
2. Under each domain are the associated goals and the respective tasks proposed to achieve the goals.
3. For each task, the plan contains the following:
 - a. The appropriate organization(s) to undertake the task and work to achieve it.
 - b. The resources required to achieve the designated task.
 - c. The timeline for implementing the task to achieve the goal. This category has been sub-divided into three time frames:
 - i. Short-term: Less than one year.
 - ii. Medium-term: 1 to 3 years.
 - iii. Long-term: 3 to 5 years





BIRMINGHAM

A WALKABLE CITY

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Goals & Tasks





Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

1. **GOAL:** Develop a facility for senior services (age 50+) to house Next, the City’s dedicated senior services provider, that will be a welcoming and dynamic hub where all members of the community can gather in an environment that promotes socialization, physical activity, lifelong learning and community wellness.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Provide Next with resources to deliver a wide range of programs and services.	a. City Commission, Next staff	a. General fund, millage	a. Medium-term
b. Design and maintain a facility that encourages social interactions, community connections and emotional enrichment for the community through the use of both indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.	b. City Commission, City staff, architects	b. General fund, bond issue	b. Long-term
c. Design and maintain a facility that promotes health, fitness and recreational programming for the community.	c. City Commission, City staff, architects	c. General fund, bond issue	c. Long-term

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

2. GOAL: Establish a funding mechanism to support reliable and sustainable senior services (Next).

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Capitalize on strong community support for older adults by asking for a senior millage. i. The Community Survey indicated that 69% of respondents were positive in their support of a continuation of a senior millage. ii. The support for the continuation of the current senior millage mirrored the voting results from the original three year senior millage from 2023 by residents (69% were "Yes" and 31% were "No").	City Commission, City staff, voters	a. General fund	a. Medium-term
b. Convene a committee of public officials representing all four communities covered in the interlocal agreement (Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) in their support of senior services (Next) to study and determine a mutually beneficial funding model where all four communities pay a representative share of operations and costs.	b. City staff, Next staff	b. City staff time, Next staff time, interlocal partner staff time	b. Short-term
c. Examine all avenues of financial support available to the City to support older adult/senior services with outside resources to assist with both the development of a facility to house senior services and the creation of a reliable funding mechanism.	c. City staff, interlocal partners, Next staff	c. City staff time, Next staff time, interlocal partner staff time	c. Medium-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

3. GOAL: Continue to prioritize public services (Police, Fire, and Department of Public Services) that meet or exceed resident needs.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Prioritize police, fire and department of public services operations. The Community Survey identified "safe neighborhoods" as the number one most important quality of Birmingham.	a. City Commission	a. General fund	a. Medium-term
b. Implement and deliver new community engagement programming and operational ideas by the police, fire and department of public services that support their missions in the delivery of services.	b. City Police and Fire staff	b. City staff time, general fund	b. Medium-term
c. Demonstrate and highlight to the community the high level of safety, security and services they currently receive. 95% of respondents in the Community Survey indicated that they felt safe in their homes. This feeling of safety is another reason why older persons want to age in place in their home in Birmingham. City staff and Next should utilize this data to emphasize the desirability of the City to older persons.	c. City Communications, Police, Fire Staff, City Commission	c. City staff time	c. Short-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

4. GOAL: Create an understanding among City residents that Next is the City's primary older adult service provider and to have the services offered by Next known and understood by the community.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Develop a consistent outreach plan to increase awareness of all of the support services and assistance offered by Next. i. Utilize the City Communications team to publicize service information and offerings in conjunction with Next. ii. Hold a City Commission workshop on Next services. iii. Hold in-person community workshops/ meetings to enlighten the community about services provided by Next. iv. Include a Next staff member at City staff meetings to further the communication connections between the City and Next. v. Include Next at City community events to further publicize the relationship between Next and the City (DPS Open House, Fire Dept. Open House, Police Dept. Open House, Farmers Market and Library Events).	City Communications staff, Next staff, City Commission	City staff time, Next staff time, general fund	Medium-term

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

5. GOAL: Maintain a positive, cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the City, Next, Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) and other valued partners.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Establish what the new paradigm will be moving forward in the relationship between the City, Next, BPS and other valued partners.	a. City staff, Next staff, BPS staff	a. City staff time, Next staff time, BPS staff time	a. Short-term
b. Demonstrate support for older person well-being and continued service offerings between the City, BPS, Next and the other three interlocal partners.	b. City staff, Next staff, BPS staff, interlocal partners	b. City staff time, Next staff time, BPS staff time, general fund	b. Short-term

6. GOAL: Coordinate healthcare, housing and other resources as necessary to assist older adults who lack insurance, financial resources or other support systems by networking with local, county, state and federal agencies.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Encourage City staff (Police, Fire, DPS, Manager's Office) and Next staff to have open lines of communication in this area in order to produce a guide or list/serv of available resources and Next support service offerings.	a. City Police, Fire, and Manager's Office staff, Next staff	a. City staff time, Next staff time	a. Short-term
b. Maintain a strong relationship between Next and other community based organizations that support older adult services to ensure that as many service offerings as possible are known and being utilized by the City and other interlocal community partners including, but not limited to: i. Ageways (formerly the Area Agencies on Aging 1-B) - State of Michigan ii. Oakland County Office of Older Adult Services iii. Other local senior centers/commissions/councils iv. Faith based organizations	b. Next staff, State of Michigan staff, Oakland County staff	b. City staff time, Next staff time	b. Short-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years



Communication & Information

1. GOAL: Create a multi-faceted communications model that uses numerous methods to ensure older adults have access to information about services and resources.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Offer a variety of communication mechanisms to ensure the effective dissemination of information to older persons. b. Coordinate communication team members from the City, Next, BPS, Baldwin Public Library, Next interlocal partner communities and any other entity that this group feels is important to ensure a broader distribution of information to the community at large and to provide increased awareness of programming and other opportunities for older persons.	a. City Communications staff, Next staff b. City Library and Communications staff, Next staff, interlocal partner staff	a. City staff time, general fund b. City staff time, Next staff time, interlocal partner staff time	a. Short-term b. Medium-term

Communication & Information

2. GOAL: Expand and enhance the City's media/communications plan promoting Next and its support services to enhance community knowledge of what Next has to offer.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Establish Next as the City's and surrounding community's primary older adult services provider.	a. City Commission, interlocal partner City elected officials	a. City staff time, City Attorney, interlocal partner staff time	a. Short-term
b. Create community awareness that Next is available to provide assistance and answers to questions.	b. City Communications, Police and Fire staff, City Commission	b. City staff time	b. Short-term
c. Create additional video content to enhance knowledge about Next for publication on the City's, Next's and other community's websites and local cable television stations.	c. City Communications staff	c. City staff time, general fund, video production contractor	c. Medium-term
d. Update the City's website with current older adult service offerings and provide links to the resources.	d. City Communications staff	d. City staff time	d. Short-term



Social & Civic Engagement

1. GOAL: Support enhanced senior services and programming to provide older adults with more opportunities for physical, mental and personal growth and development.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Create clear and simple communication strategies to reach older persons who may not be aware of available older person opportunities or services.	a. City Communications staff	a. City staff time	a. Short-term
b. Develop City programming (in partnership with Next) for older persons. For example, BSD Shopping Day/Night event, reduced pricing for seniors at coffee shops, bistros or restaurants or other special event activities like karaoke or live music catering to older adults.	b. City BSD and DPS staff, volunteer businesses	b. City staff time, donations from businesses	b. Medium-term
c. Formulate a plan to coordinate and advertise older person programming opportunities from the City, other community partners (Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin), and the Birmingham Public Schools.	c. City staff, Next staff, interlocal partners, BPS staff	c. City staff time, Next staff time, interlocal partner staff time, BPS staff time	c. Short-term

Social & Civic Engagement

2. GOAL: Create and promote community and social activities/opportunities for older adults.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Plan future projects/programming around advancing and improving the areas that mean most to community members. As indicated in the Community Survey, the most important features of the City were: safe neighborhoods, walkability, the library/museum, community and social activities and the parks and trail systems.	a. City Police, Library, Museum, and DPS staff	a. City staff time, general fund, parks and recreation bond funding	a. Medium-term
b. Increase communication to promote multiple social and community events from a variety of resources that include the City, BSD, BPS, Next or any other community based organization.	b. City Communications staff	b. City staff time	b. Short-term
c. Coordinate a master list or calendar of event happenings to increase awareness of social and community activities available to older adults.	c. Next staff, City staff	c. City staff time, Next staff time	c. Short-term
d. Identify opportunities for older persons to attend BPS functions at no cost or a reduced cost. This includes activities like school plays, concerts, athletic events or other special events. These opportunities would provide inter-generational contacts.	d. BPS staff, Next staff	d. BPS staff time, Next staff time, BPS in-kind donation	d. Short-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Social & Civic Engagement

3. GOAL: Become an "Age Friendly Community."

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Expand the role of the police community resource officer by adding an older adults component in concert with Next to provide community outreach.	a. City Police staff, Next staff	a. City staff time, Next staff time, general fund	a. Medium-term
b. Expand the role of the fire community resource officer by adding an older adults component in concert with Next to provide community outreach.	b. City Fire staff, Next staff	b. City staff time, Next staff time, general fund	b. Medium-term
c. Explore the opportunities to become an AARP "Age Friendly Community" or a "Dementia Friendly Community" or any other designation that would enhance the City's reputation as being older adult friendly.	c. City staff, Next staff	c. City staff time, Next staff time	c. Medium-term

4. GOAL: Install permanent restrooms in neighborhood parks to make older adults comfortable participating in outside physical activity.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Identify parks that are immediate candidates for restroom installation.	a. City DPS staff, Parks and Recreation Board	a. City staff time	a. Short-term
b. Develop and formulate a plan to operate public restrooms in a safe and convenient manner.	b. City DPS staff	b. City staff time	b. Medium-term
c. Include funding in the City's new Five-Year Master Park Plan to facilitate the addition of public restrooms.	c. City Finance and DPS staff, City Commission	c. City staff time, general fund, parks and recreation bond	c. Long-term

5. GOAL: Provide older adults with assistance in exploring employment and volunteer opportunities in the community.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Educate older adults about the availability of employment opportunities.	a. Next staff	a. Next staff time	a. Short-term
b. Identify outside agency resources (local, county and state) that older persons could use to improve their employability.	b. Next staff	b. Next staff time	b. Short-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years



Housing

1. GOAL: Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Expand the support services department (currently two part-time employees) at Next that specializes in home services.	a. Next staff	a. Increased funding for Next	a. Medium-term
b. Create a mechanism where all City staff, especially those in direct communication with the public, become mindful of older residents and other persons with special needs who may need assistance. This information needs to be conveyed to Next for follow-up.	b. City staff, Next, volunteers	b. Funding, training, volunteer homes	b. Medium-term
c. Create an inventory of "model" homes in the community that can be used as examples to others on how to better modify their homes to address physical barriers.	c. City staff, Next staff	c. Funding, training, volunteer homes	c. Medium-term

Continued on next page.

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Housing

1. (Continued) GOAL: Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
d. Improve communication offerings by both Next and the City (on-line resources, print media, City/Next websites, E-blasts, programming at Next/Library) to promote service offerings related to home modifications, maintenance and barriers that are of concern to older adults.	d. City Communications staff, Community Development, Next	d. Staff time	d. Short-term
e. Explore volunteer networks to increase awareness of the multitude of service/community based organizations (Rotary Club, Senior Men's/Women's Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club) faith-based institutions, and public/private schools that offer services and/or assistance to older persons.	e. City Communications staff, volunteers	e. Volunteers, Service based organizations	e. Short-term
f. Add a postcard to the City's Welcome Packet specific to seniors that lists senior services and inquires about any special needs of new residents.	f. City staff	f. General fund, staff time	f. Short-term

2. GOAL: Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Actively pursue grant programs or government subsidy programs that would assist developers interested in senior housing.	a. City staff	a. Staff time	a. Short-term
b. Explore alternative forms of senior housing for potential pilot programs by encouraging private individuals to think outside the box. These programs include:	b. City Planning staff	b. Staff time	b. Medium-term

Continued on next page.

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Housing

2. (Continued) GOAL: Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
i. House Sharing ii. Co-Housing iii. Programs where developers and/or neighborhood residents collaborate together to assist one another. c. Identify property within the City that could be developed for affordable senior housing. d. Explain property taxes in a public forum so that the public understands how taxes are levied, by whom, at what rate and where their tax dollars actually end up (who receives the tax revenue). The Community Survey respondents cited high taxes and property values as impediments to aging in place. e. Offer comprehensive in-person programming by Next with guest speakers on the topic of planning for the future. Topics to be considered include: housing costs (includes food, utilities property taxes and maintenance), transportation, health care (insurance costs), medications and additional discretionary funding for entertainment and/or travel.	c. City Planning staff d. City Finance staff e. Next staff	c. Staff time d. Staff time e. Next funding	c. Short-term d. Short-term e. Short-term

3. GOAL: Modify the City's zoning ordinances to provide both incentives and options for older adult housing.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Prioritize the revisions to the City's zoning ordinances to encourage the pursuit of this goal in accordance with the City's 2040 Master Plan. b. Evaluate modifications to the City's zoning ordinances as they pertain to residential accessibility of small/tiny homes, auxiliary dwelling units, shared housing and senior living facilities.	a. City Planning staff, Planning Board b. City Planning staff, Planning Board	a. Staff time, consultants, general fund b. Staff time, consultants, general fund	a. Medium-term b. Medium-term

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Housing

4. GOAL: Increase the walkability of the City for older adults.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Install level and well maintained sidewalks as a priority. Walkability was listed as the second most important feature of the City from the Community Survey. Older persons want to be able to walk more, walk safely and have adequate shade and resting locations. b. Install organized wayfinding (signage) with designated walking routes (with accompanying distances) as possible walkability enhancements. c. Make St. James Park an older person friendly park with amenities specifically designed for older persons as part of the City's Five Year Master Park Plan.	a. City Engineering staff, City Commission b. City Planning staff, BSD staff, Wayfinding Committee c. City DPS staff, Parks and Recreation Board	a. General fund, grant funding b. General fund, grant funding, BSD funding c. Parks & recreation bond funding, general fund, grant funding	a. Medium-term b. Medium-term c. Long-term
d. Ensure older person safety and quality of life issues by the enforcement of City ordinances related to noise, construction sites (fencing, debris, hours of operation), property maintenance (grass, trees, shrubs) and snow removal by the City's Code Enforcement officers. e. Continue the City's existing sidewalk improvement plan with better communication about sidewalk repair work and enhancements to increase awareness of City efforts in this area. f. Examine the feasibility of providing snow sidewalk clearing for all residents.	d. City Building Department staff e. City Engineering and Communications staff f. City DPS staff	d. Additional staffing, general fund e. General fund, grant fund f. General fund	d. Medium-term e. Short-term f. Medium-term



Transportation

1. GOAL: Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Promote and educate the public about the City's partnership with Next and the SMART Community Partnership Program (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) for transportation services for local appointments/destinations.	a. SMART, Next staff	a. SMART staff time, Next staff time	a. Short-term
b. Explain what SMART is, how it works, how it is affiliated with Next and the City.	b. SMART, Next staff	b. SMART staff time, Next staff time	b. Short-term
c. Extend the hours of the Community Partnership Program bus operations to include operating after 6:00 pm.	c. SMART, City staff, Next staff	c. SMART staff time, City staff time, Next staff time	c. Short-term

Continued on next page.

Short-term: < year; Medium-term: 1-3 years; Long-term: 3-5 years

Transportation

1. (Continued) GOAL: Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
d. Extend the SMART FLEX program to the service area of Next. SMART FLEX works on an "on-demand" basis. Rides are not booked in advance. A client would book their ride shortly before they are ready to leave with an average wait time of 5 to 30 minutes (if available).	d. SMART, Next staff	d. SMART staff, Next staff	d. Short-term
e. Explain the SMART Connector Service. SMART Connector Service is an advance registration, curb- to-curb service within a 10-mile radius of a designated service area. Rides are available on a first come, first served basis and reservations are required. A six-business day notice is recommended for medical appointments and a two business day notice for other destinations.	e. SMART, City Communications staff	e. SMART and City staff time	e. Medium-term
f. Inform the public about MyRide2.com, a transportation service provider that helps seniors and adults with disabilities in Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. City staff and other local government officials work with SMART to extend the SMART FLEX program to the service area of Next.	f. SMART, City Communications staff, Next staff	f. City staff time, SMART staff time, partner government official staff time	f. Medium-term

Transportation

1. (Continued) GOAL: Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
g. Explore volunteer networks to see if those with adequate personal transportation and who have also indicated a desire to volunteer their time to assist others could somehow be connected in a way that was safe, legal and beneficial to everyone (rideshare/buddy ride program).	g. Next staff, volunteers	g. Next staff time, volunteer time	g. Short-term
h. Provide programming at Next to explain how transportation services such as Uber and Lyft work and assist older persons in setting up accounts and understanding how to use and pay for the services.	h. Next staff	h. Next staff time	h. Short-term

2. GOAL: Improve the feeling of safety and walkability by working with the Police Department to evaluate speed concerns, sign violations, failing to yield to pedestrians already in a crosswalk and/or crosswalk encroachment by vehicles.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Develop a media campaign and/or a traffic program highlighting actions taken to address pedestrian/bicycle related issues of safety created by City staff (Police Department, Communications Team).	a. City Police, Planning, and Communications staff	a. City staff time, general fund	a. Short-term
b. Coordinate a wayfinding program to improve walkability routes and safety measures coordinated by City staff (Police Department, Fire Department, Planning Department, Communications Team).	b. City Police, Fire Department, Planning, and Communications staff, Wayfinding Committee	b. City staff time, general fund	b. Long-term



Learn more about senior services and the City's Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan at bhamgov.org/seniorservices.



Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee
City of Birmingham

City Manager's Office

Presented by: Mark Clemence

Date: April 7, 2025



Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee Members:

Rackeline Hoff	Chair and Senior Resident
Cris Braun	Vice-Chair, Representative of Next and Senior Resident
Pam DeWeese	Representative and Senior Resident
Rosemary O'Malley	Representative of Adult Education and Senior Resident
Melissa Mark	Representative of Baldwin Library and Senior Resident
Jay Reynolds	Alternate Representative and Senior Resident
Rebekah Craft	City Staff Representative (Director – Baldwin Public Library)
Leslie Pielack	City Staff Representative (Director – Birmingham Museum)
Mark Clemence	City Staff Liaison to AIPC

Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC)

- City Commission Strategic Goal # 1 (2022) – Engaged and Connected Community
- AIPC created by City Commission (04/2023) by resolution #04-093-23
- AIPC seated (06/2023) – 18 month term (01/2025)
- Scope of work:
 1. A detailed demographic study of trends and patterns in our population;
 2. A review of existing senior services and identification of unmet needs;
 3. Development of an Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan outlining the vision and goals to encourage senior residents to age comfortably in Birmingham
- City staff was directed to facilitate the requested studies and research necessary to develop an action plan to improve the health, safety and welfare of senior citizens in Birmingham

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

- Introduction
- Aging in Place Goals Summary – 19 Goals Under 5 Modified Domains of Livability
- Background of Senior Services
- Plan Development – Process to be followed to achieve CC goals
- Aging in Place Community Survey
- Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan:
 - Section 1: Demographic Analysis
 - Section 2: Review Existing Services/Identification of Unmet Needs
 - Section 3: Aging in Place Action Plan Framework – Modified AARP 8 Domains of Livability Model
 - Section 4: Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

What does it mean to age in place?

In simple terms, to age in place means that a person lives in their home as they age for as long as possible.

National Research:

Depending on the studies examined, 70% to 90% of older adults in the U.S. want to age in place.

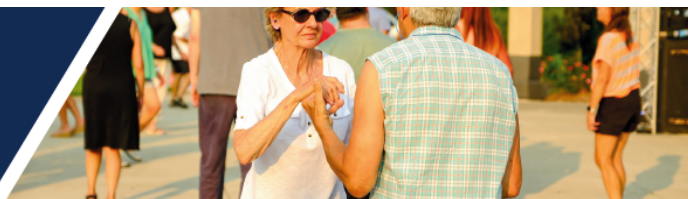
Birmingham Community Survey Information:

72% of Birmingham residents stated that it was important for them to stay in their current residence as they aged.

80% of all survey respondents indicated that it was important for them to remain in Birmingham.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Goals Summary



AGING IN PLACE GOALS SUMMARY

The following two pages show the City of Birmingham's "Aging in Place Action Plan Goals Summary" as determined by the AIPC. This summary lists all of the intended goals of the action plan to incentivize a reader to want to read the entire plan. The Aging in Place Action Plan Goals Summary is color coordinated with the formal Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan and utilizes a modified version of the AARP "8 Domains of Livability" model.

City of Birmingham Aging in Place Goals

As provided by the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee's Aging in Place Plan, January 2025

Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health)

1. Develop a permanent home for senior services (age 50+) to house Next, the City's dedicated senior services provider, that will be a welcoming and dynamic hub where all members of the community can gather in an environment that promotes socialization, physical activity, lifelong learning and community wellness.
2. Establish a funding mechanism to support reliable and sustainable senior services (Next).
3. Continue to prioritize public services (Police, Fire, Department of Public Services) that meet or exceed resident needs.
4. Create an understanding among City residents that Next is the City's primary older adult service provider and to have the services offered by Next known and understood by the community.
5. Maintain a positive, cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the City, Next, the Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) and other valued partners.
6. Coordinate health care, housing and other resources as necessary to assist older adults who lack insurance, financial resources or other support systems by networking with local, county, state and federal agencies.

Communication & Information

1. Create a multi-faceted communications model that uses numerous methods to ensure older adults have access to information about services and resources.
2. Expand and enhance the City's media/communications plan promoting Next and all of Next's support services to increase community knowledge.

Social & Civic Engagement

1. Support enhanced senior services and programming to provide older adults with more opportunities for physical, mental and personal growth and development.
2. Create and promote community and social activities/opportunities for older adults.
3. Become an "Age Friendly Community."
4. Install permanent restrooms in neighborhood parks to make older adults comfortable participating in outside physical activity.
5. Provide older adults with assistance in exploring employment and volunteer opportunities in the community.

Housing

1. Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.
2. Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.
3. Modify the City's zoning ordinances to provide both incentives and options for older adult housing.
4. Increase the walkability of the City for older adults.

Transportation

1. Educate the community about the various transportation services that are available, affordable and safe for all older adults or others with disabilities or special needs.
2. Improve the feeling of safety and walkability by working with the Police Department to evaluate speed concerns, sign violations, failing to yield to pedestrians already in a crosswalk and/or crosswalk encroachment by vehicles.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Goals Summary

1. Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (1977-2015) – BASCC

- Non-Profit
- Individuals from the community and the Birmingham Public School District (BPS) proposed the establishment of an area wide senior citizen program.
- The mission of BASCC was to identify and meet the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities by coordinating community resources to provide educational, recreational and social programs, supportive outreach services and volunteer opportunities.
- All communities served by BPS.
- BPS provided a home for BASCC at no cost. Currently in approx. 10,000 sq. ft. in the former Midvale Elementary School.

2. Next (2015-Present)

- BASCC renamed "Next."
- Membership has soared to over 2,300 members.
- Average attendance now exceeds over 1,500 participants weekly
- Expanded services including support services that are vital to serve the most vulnerable segment of the population.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Senior Services Committees/Interlocal Agreement

1. Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (2012) - JSSC

- Created with other neighborhood partners, (Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, Southfield Twp.) and officials from BASCC and BPS.
- Created to address rising senior population, including the appropriate funding and governance models necessary to support those needs.
- JSSC completed their work and recommended a two-phase approach to addressing their mission:
 1. Phase 1 (short-term measures):
 - a. Increase hours and add exercise equipment.
 - b. Seek an additional \$200,000 from the four communities of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.
 2. Phase 2 (long-term measures):
 - a. Utilize a bond issue to fund a new or upgraded facility.
 - b. Replace municipal funding and BPS funding with a millage.
 - c. Increase space for senior center by 50%.
 - d. Be open 69 hours per week.

The JSSC presented its final report in June 2013. The final report was presented to all four communities by September of 2013. No further action was taken by any of the four communities (Note: funding was increased by the participating communities).

2. Ad Hoc Joint Senior Services Committee (2018) - JSSCII

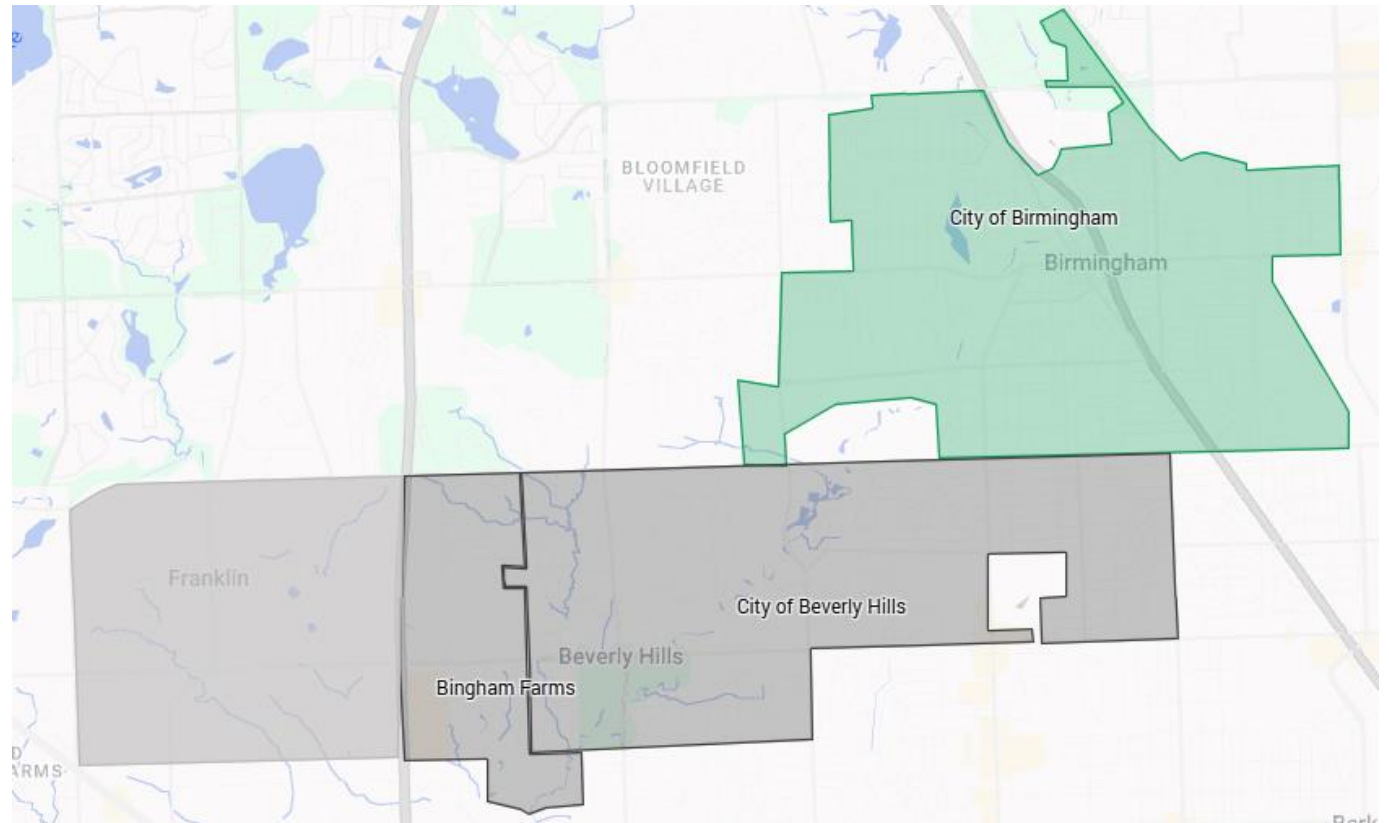
- Created with the same basic mission as the JSSC.
- Reviewed the first JSSC report of June 2013.
- Work interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. It appears that most meetings were held via Zoom.
- JSSCII did come up with a new interlocal agreement, but the agreement was not acceptable to any of the four communities in its form.
- Interlocal agreement was never presented to any of the four communities for approval. The JSSCII did not prepare a final report.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Senior Services Committees/Interlocal Agreement

3. Interlocal Agreement (2021) – Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin

- Interlocal agreement was to enable Next to rely upon stabilization and predictability for its finances in order to serve the seniors residing in the four governmental units.
- Currently, this interlocal agreement funds approx. 18% of Next's total budget.
- This funding goes directly to Next from each of the four governmental units.



Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Process



PROCESS

The Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC) began meeting in July of 2023. There was a great deal of discussion and debate as to the methodology the committee should use to accomplish its scope of work. It was decided that it was logical to begin the committee's work with a discussion concerning older adults and what it means to "age in place."

The AIPC then held monthly meetings with guest speakers and topics directly related to the scope of work. All of the AIPC meetings were open to the public, and they were encouraged to actively participate with the committee. Meeting discussion points:

1. Review senior services in Oakland County, MI.
2. Analyze City demographics, SEMCOG information and census data.
3. Review and analyze Next operations and services.
4. Review City building codes and zoning ordinances with the Building and Planning Departments.
5. Discuss and review AARP "8 Domains of Livability" and its pertinence to the Community Survey and scope of work.
6. Discuss and develop the Aging in Place Community Survey.
7. Hold a public engagement meeting at Baldwin Public Library.
8. Issue final Aging in Place Community Survey to the public: online (Engage Birmingham); deliver hard copies to each City resident through City water bills; distribute hard copies at various locations in the City (City Hall, Next, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Museum, Birmingham Ice Arena and Baldwin House); and distributed at the City's Winter Markt event.
9. Hold a public engagement meeting at Next
10. Analyze Community Survey results.
11. Complete Aging in Place Community Survey Final Report.
12. Discuss and develop outline of the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Community Survey



BIRMINGHAM
A WALKABLE CITY

AGING IN PLACE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Complete this form or take this survey online at engage.bhamgov.org/aginginplace.





ACTION PLAN FOR OLDER ADULTS

Share your feedback about an action plan to improve the health, safety and welfare of older adults in Birmingham. Whether you are an older adult or know of older adults within our community, your feedback is important!

Did you know?
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines aging in place as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level".

Birmingham maintains its small town feel while offering the recreational and cultural advantages of an urban area. What is most important about Birmingham for older adults? Check all that apply.

☐ Arts and entertainment
☐ Community and social activities
☐ Houses of worship
☐ Historic character

☐ Library/Museum
☐ Next
☐ Parks and trail system
☐ Recreational activities

☐ Safe neighborhoods
☐ Shops & restaurants
☐ Walkability
☐ Other: _____

Demographics

What is your zip code? _____

Your age range: ☐ Under 35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55
☐ 56-65 ☐ 66-75 ☐ 76-85 ☐ Over 85

Gender: _____

Number of people living in your home: _____

Are you employed? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time
☐ Retired ☐ Not employed

If not employed, would you like to re-enter the workforce
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Considering it

Birmingham & Your Needs

Circle the number which best describes your feelings about the statements below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is important for me to remain in Birmingham as I age.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel the City of Birmingham's police, fire and public services meet my needs.	1	2	3	4	5
Birmingham has accessible parks and facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
I have a support system in place to assist me as I age.	1	2	3	4	5
I have adequate health care and am healthy enough to age in my residence.	1	2	3	4	5
I would support the continuation of a senior millage (one mill or less) for older adults.	1	2	3	4	5
I am familiar with Next, a nonprofit organization that is the City's primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults.	1	2	3	4	5
I am familiar with Next's comprehensive support services.	1	2	3	4	5

I need help with the following support services. Check all that apply.

☐ Grass cutting
☐ Snow removal

☐ Minor home repairs/modifications
☐ Daily living activities

☐ Transportation
☐ Other: _____

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BIRMINGHAM
A WALKABLE CITY

Transportation

I have adequate personal transportation.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

I am familiar with the City's partnership with Next to provide SMART transportation services to local appointments/destinations.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Housing

I feel safe in my residence.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

I am able to modify my residence so I may age in place.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

It is important to stay in my current residence as I age.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

The affordability of housing is a factor in my decision to remain in Birmingham.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Birmingham offers a variety of living options for older adults.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

I am interested in the following alternative housing options in Birmingham. Check all that apply.

☐ Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
☐ Co-Housing

☐ Rental Units
☐ Senior Living Facilities

☐ Small/Tiny Homes
☐ Other: _____

I have the following concerns about aging in my current home. Check all that apply.

☐ Unable to care for myself
☐ Unable to afford to live in home
☐ Other: _____

☐ Unable to care for my property
☐ Feeling isolated/Being alone

☐ Stairs or other physical barriers

(Attach additional pages if needed.)

Social & Civic Engagement

I am satisfied with Birmingham's civic destinations and outdoor spaces and facilities.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Birmingham has adequate public restrooms.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

I am satisfied with my social life and feel connected to the community.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Communications

What is your primary source of City information? Check all that apply.

☐ City electronic newsletters/emails
☐ City print newsletters

☐ City website
☐ Family/friends/neighbors

☐ Social media

I would like more information about older adult services and opportunities.

I would like to receive a weekly phone call to check on my welfare.

I would like to volunteer my time to assist others.

I would like to be contacted for a personal interview regarding my survey responses.

My contact information (optional): _____

If you have additional information you would like us to consider as we develop an action plan to help older adults age in place, please add additional pages or email clemencem@bhamgov.org.

Submit Your Survey

1: U.S. Mail: City of Birmingham Attn: Aging in Place Survey, 151 Martin Street, Birmingham, MI 48009
 2: Drop Off: City Hall drop boxes, Clerk's Office, Baldwin Public Library or Next (2121 Midvale Street)
 3: Engage Birmingham - Submit this survey online at engage.bhamgov.org/aginginplace



Thank you for completing this survey and helping to improve the health and wellness of older adults in Birmingham.

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Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Demographic Information/Analysis

In considering aging in place, key points of available demographic data and projections are as follows:

1. The largest population of residents in Birmingham are between 50 and 54 years of age.
2. Three of the top four population changes in Birmingham between 2010 and 2022 were in the age populations between 60 and 74 years of age categories.
3. The forecasted population changes for Birmingham indicate that between 2020 and 2050, the largest two age populations growing by percentage will be residents age 65 to 84 and people over the age of 85.
4. The percentage of households in Birmingham with a resident age 65 or older has gone up 38.3% from 2010 to 2022.
5. The percentage of adults age 65 and older living in the City between 2010 and 2022 has increased 35%. The percentage of residents age 18 and under went up only 15.8% in the same time period.
6. In Southeast Michigan, the population of persons over the age of 65 is projected to increase approximately 27% between 2020 and 2050. Conversely, the number of school age children (ages 5-17) is expected to fall approximately 4% over the same time period.
7. In Birmingham, 17.4% of the population is age 65 or older.
8. 19.6% of the City's population is ages 5 to 17.
9. 6.3% of the City's population are 65 or older and live alone.
10. 5.5% of the City's population live in poverty.
11. The average household size is 2.32 people
12. The median housing value in 2023 was \$679,700. The average selling price was \$904,917.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Review of Existing Services/Identification of Unmet Needs

Existing Services:

- Next, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, provides senior/adult services for the City and the communities of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin (interlocal partners in support of Next).
 - 2023-2024 Next budget was approximately \$1,036,250 and includes the BPS \$310,000 “in-kind” revenue in the form of no-cost rent.
 - Next only has 14 employees, only two of which are full time. Next relies heavily on volunteers who provide approx. 3,885 hours of service per year.
 - Next is housed within a former elementary school (Midvale) in approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of space. Next shares the building with the BPS Early Childhood Center.
 - Next has a separate entrance with a lobby that is used extensively by members.
 - Next offers over 230 offerings each month.
 - 69% of Community Survey respondents were familiar with Next as the City’s primary older adult services provider.
 - Next offers a comprehensive list of support services to the entire community (not just members) for residents in need of extra assistance or support (Meals on Wheels, transportation services, medical equipment loaner program, yard and home maintenance assistance, information and referral to area resources, nutritional support and health screenings)
- The City has no formal senior/older adult department or municipal office. Senior/older adult services are not addressed in the City Charter.
- The City posts a “senior services” section on the City website that lists City related services and opportunities from the following City Departments: Fire, Police, Museum, Golf Courses, Library.
- The City currently budgets approximately \$126,632 to support Next (General Fund). The interlocal agreement with the other three communities accounts for approximately 18% of Next’s total operating budget.
- The City electorate approved a three year, .33 mil senior millage (7-1-24 to 6-30-27). The senior millage was to “enable the City to make interim improvements to the YMCA building and to establish a sinking fund to contribute toward the cost of permanent improvements to the building for use as a senior/recreation center in the future.”

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Review of Existing Services/Identification of Unmet Needs

Unmet Needs:

- The single greatest unmet senior/older adult service need is a permanent home for providing older adult services. A permanent home would allow the City's service provider, Next, the space it needs to continue to not only meet older adult needs, but also acquire the space, support and financial assistance necessary to meet the challenges identified in the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.
- Only 38% of Community Survey respondents were familiar with Next's comprehensive support services.
- The most pressing support service need according to Community Survey respondents was minor home repairs/modifications.
- 61% of Community Survey respondents indicated that the affordability of housing was a factor in their decision on whether to remain in Birmingham or not.
- 40% of Community Survey respondents indicated that stairs or other barriers were their greatest concern regarding their ability to age in place in their homes.
- Regarding alternative housing options, the most popular was senior living facilities at 35% of respondents, small/tiny homes at 24% and rental units at 16%.
- Only 14% of Community Survey respondents felt that the City had adequate public restrooms.
- The Community Survey indicated that e-newsletters/e-blasts were the most effective communication tool.
- 78% of Community Survey respondents indicated that they would like to volunteer to assist others.
- 15% of Community respondents reported feeling isolated/being alone.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Framework – Modified AARP “8 Domains of Livability”

Framework:

Many aging in place plans and reports from around the country and within Michigan use either the domains listed by the AARP or domains that are very similar to the AARP “8 Domains of Livability.” The domains are used as measures to gauge where a community is in terms of aging in place and assist communities in identifying unmet needs that require attention to improve the ability of older adults to age in place.



Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan Framework – Modified AARP “8 Domains of Livability”

Modified Framework:

- The AIPC adopted a modified version of the AARP “8 Domains of Livability” into the following 5 domains:
 1. Birmingham & Your Needs (Community & Health, Outdoor Spaces & Buildings)
 2. Communication & Information
 3. Social & Civic Engagement (Civic Participation, Employment, Social Participation & Inclusion)
 4. Housing (Housing, Community Supports & Health Services)
 5. Transportation
- The City’s Community Survey domains are color coordinated for ease of use in the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan. The AIPC felt that there was overlap between domains and that goals and associated action steps to complete those goals could impact more than one domain at a time.
- The AIPC adopted the modified framework to directly align the aging in place action plan with our community sentiments.
- The modified framework allowed the Community Survey to be completed in the required two-page format and the AIPC’s desire for a clear, easy to complete, community orientated survey that was also simple to return.



Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Format

Format:

- The AIPC developed goals for all five domains based upon all of the information gathered by the committee as it related to demographics, current senior service/unmet needs and the Community Survey data analysis.
- The AIPC reduced the number of **goals** from over 30 to 19 total goals over the course of the action plan development. The AIPC did not want to produce an “overwhelming” plan, but one that was directly tailored to our specific community.
- For each goal, the action plan lays out various **tasks** and/or activities that need to be implemented to achieve the stated goal. In the action plan, there are 64 tasks/activities listed to achieve the stated goals. Similar to the goals, the AIPC also reduced the number of tasks to streamline the process.
- As with any action plan, the AIPC also identified **who** was best suited to work on the tasks. The group or groups are listed in the action plan.
- The AIPC also identified what **resources** would be necessary to achieve the tasks. Those resources are listed in the action plan.
- Finally, the AIPC also proposed a **timeline** to achieve the tasks. The timeline is included in the action plan.
- The AIPC felt that many areas addressed in the Aging in Place Action Plan were connected not only to the City’s Birmingham 2040 Plan, but also to the City’s Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, The Birmingham Green: Healthy Climate Plan and the Unimproved Roads Plan.
- The goals developed were designed to build upon an already strong system proved by Next to become an even stronger one that addresses previous shortfalls and seeks to be inclusive, welcoming and accessible to all our senior/older adults.
- The Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan is 20 pages in length, color coordinated by goals, utilizes larger text and is easy to read.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Sample Goal and Related Information



1. **GOAL:** Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Expand the support services department (currently two part-time employees) at Next that specializes in home services.	a. Next staff	a. Increased funding for Next	a. Medium-term
b. Create a mechanism where all City staff, especially those in direct communication with the public, become mindful of older residents and other persons with special needs who may need assistance. This information needs to be conveyed to Next for follow-up.	b. City staff, Next, volunteers	b. Funding, training, volunteer homes	b. Medium-term
c. Create an inventory of "model" homes in the community that can be used as examples to others on how to better modify their homes to address physical barriers.	c. City staff, Next staff	c. Funding, training, volunteer homes	c. Medium-term

Continued on next page.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

Sample Goal and Related Information

Housing

1. (Continued) GOAL: Improve communication and connection with older adults in order to provide a network of service providers willing to assist with home modifications and maintenance.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
d. Improve communication offerings by both Next and the City (on-line resources, print media, City/Next websites, E-blasts, programming at Next/Library) to promote service offerings related to home modifications, maintenance and barriers that are of concern to older adults.	d. City Communications staff, Community Development, Next	d. Staff time	d. Short-term
e. Explore volunteer networks to increase awareness of the multitude of service/community based organizations (Rotary Club, Senior Men's/Women's Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club) faith-based institutions, and public/private schools that offer services and/or assistance to older persons.	e. City Communications staff, volunteers	e. Volunteers, Service based organizations	e. Short-term
f. Add a postcard to the City's Welcome Packet specific to seniors that lists senior services and inquires about any special needs of new residents.	f. City staff	f. General fund, staff time	f. Short-term

2. GOAL: Increase the availability of affordable, non-income qualified housing options for older adults.

Task	Who	Resources	Timeline
a. Actively pursue grant programs or government subsidy programs that would assist developers interested in senior housing.	a. City staff	a. Staff time	a. Short-term
b. Explore alternative forms of senior housing for potential pilot programs by encouraging private individuals to think outside the box. These programs include:	b. City Planning staff	b. Staff time	b. Medium-term

Continued on next page.

Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan

SUGGESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Make a motion adopting a resolution to adopt the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan in its entirety and through this plan, commit to improving the health, safety, welfare and quality of life for older adults in the City of Birmingham.

OTHER:

- While not for consideration at this time, the AIPC would like the City Commission to consider establishing a permanent Aging in Place Committee whose purpose would be:
 1. To make ongoing recommendations to the City Commission on matters related to aging in place.
 2. To work in concert with designated member(s) of City staff, Next and other stakeholders to implement the Aging in Place Citywide Action Plan.
- Members of this permanent committee would ideally represent the various interests of aging in place issues in Birmingham and all regular meetings would be open to the public.