

CITY DEPARTMENTS
Wednesday, September 25, 2002

1. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FORT WORTH?

Large city with a feel of small community

Diverse ethnic groups

Job market is strong here

Active community of people who are supportive of arts and cultural environment

City is well-distributed; we have density not sprawl

- Geographical areas connected

We have a variety of districts

- Medical
- Cultural
- Downtown

Strong neighborhoods

Rich heritage - Cow town

Urban redevelopment

Excellent city services

We are twenty-minute city - from /to

Proud of city

Not Dallas

Good Services

- Retail
- Entertainment
- Restaurants
- Shopping

Good public transportation
Lots of higher education opportunities
Big airplane plant

Diverse economic environment
Stable tax base
Consistent and reliable City government
Elected officials are mostly reasonable
No scandals

2. WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT FOR THE CITY OF FORT WORTH?

Diversity can cause friction

- Different ways of looking at things.
- Feel misunderstood
- Discriminated against/excluded

Weak mass public transit system

Have not looked at maintaining infrastructure

Fast growth - not enough planning

- Services fall behind
- Taxes fall behind

Change in management of city can cause anxiety

Not able to provide all of the services needed due to limited resources

City and school districts could work together more effectively.

- Hard because we have multiple school districts

3. WHAT NEW OR ENHANCED SERVICES NEED TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

One stop shop for city services in neighborhoods

- Decentralizing services
- Take city services out to neighborhoods

Mass transportation

Stay on cutting edge of activities for recreational services, for all

Recreation - youth oriented

Computer labs - cutting edge hardware and software

Partnering more with schools

Partner with schools

- More ESL
- More adult education opportunities
- Literacy

Continue to build our economic base

Public safety - emergency preparedness

More general participation in diverse ethnic celebrations

4. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?

Internet (almost all of group)

Newspapers

TV/radio/magazines

People

Schools

Internal documents

5. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE LIBRARY?

Story time / Reading corner

Provide support for Girl Scout activities (badges)

Consumer Reports

Audio - books, CDs - broader selection than stores

Current fiction

Past issues of magazines and newspapers

Meeting space for community groups

Use of computers

- Educational games

Reference materials

Interlibrary loans

Good hours - open evenings.

- Regionals open 7 days/week

Good customer service

Very cooperative in working with other city departments

6. HOW COULD THE LIBRARY IMPROVE ITS SERVICES?

Have a parking issue downtown

Fees for printing are way too high

I am a city employee but I don't live in the city; I would like to be able to have a card

People in some neighborhoods have to travel long distances to visit a branch

- Branches are not located in every neighborhood
- Bookmobile?

We need book drops in various locations in city

Late fees are not the library's; they go to general fund

CDs for educational games must be inserted and changed by staff; there are too few anyway.

Provide journal articles free to city employees

7. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?

Go back to having libraries semi-quiet

- Staff talk too loudly

Locate new facilities in central hubs, paying attention to population density and public transportation.

Provide space in an area in the library where we can conduct City business

Make public safety literature available

Libraries should not build standalone facilities

- Use city campuses
- Use co-located /shared buildings

- Partner with other agencies
- One stop shops for city
- Neighborhoods would take more interest in combined city services

Provide fast, cheap, convenient service

Put coffee shops in libraries

Better marketing of library services

Sell old books at libraries.

Fort Worth library on City's network, particularly for system e-mail