

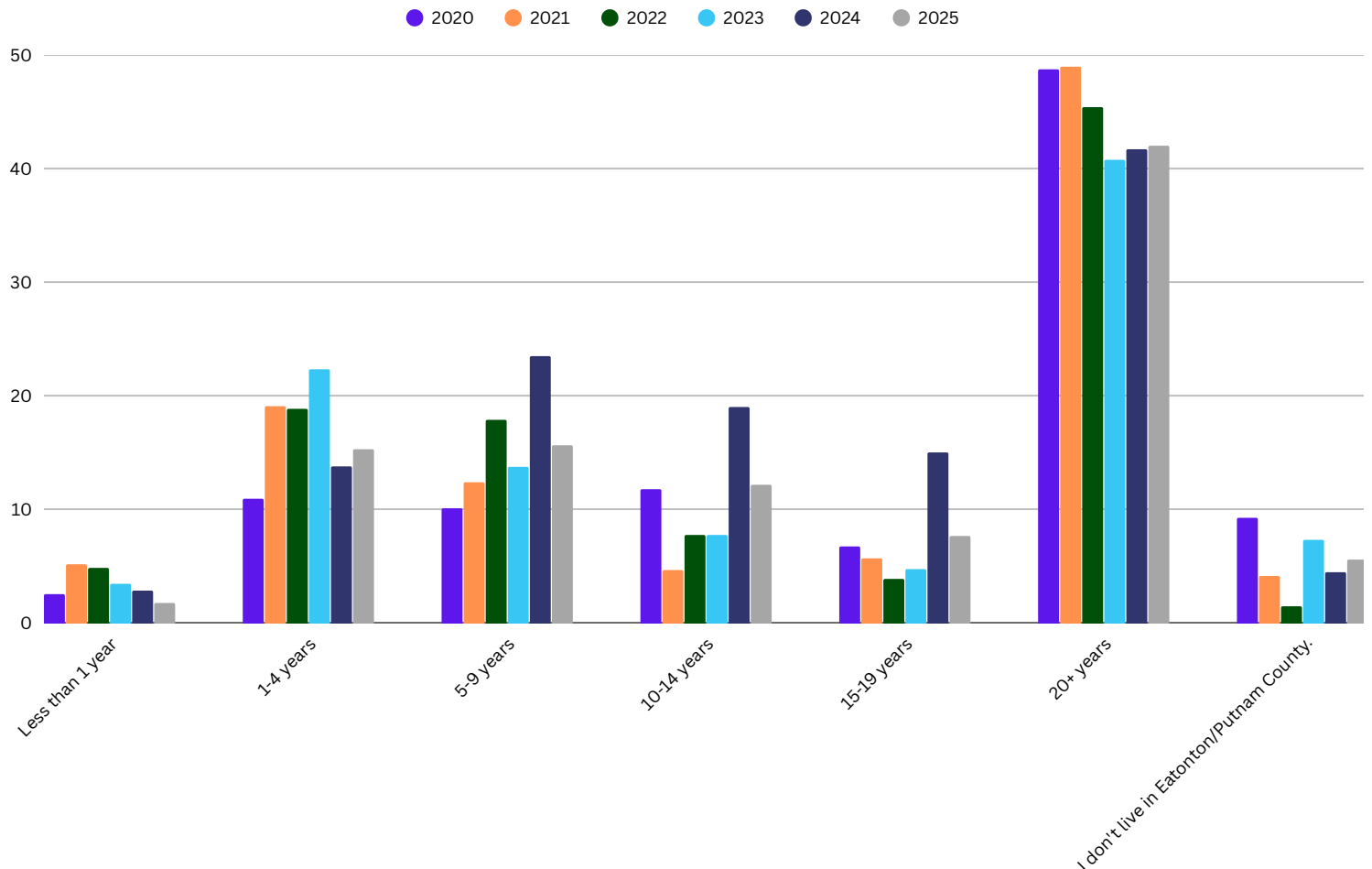


## 2025 Main Street Survey Results from the Public

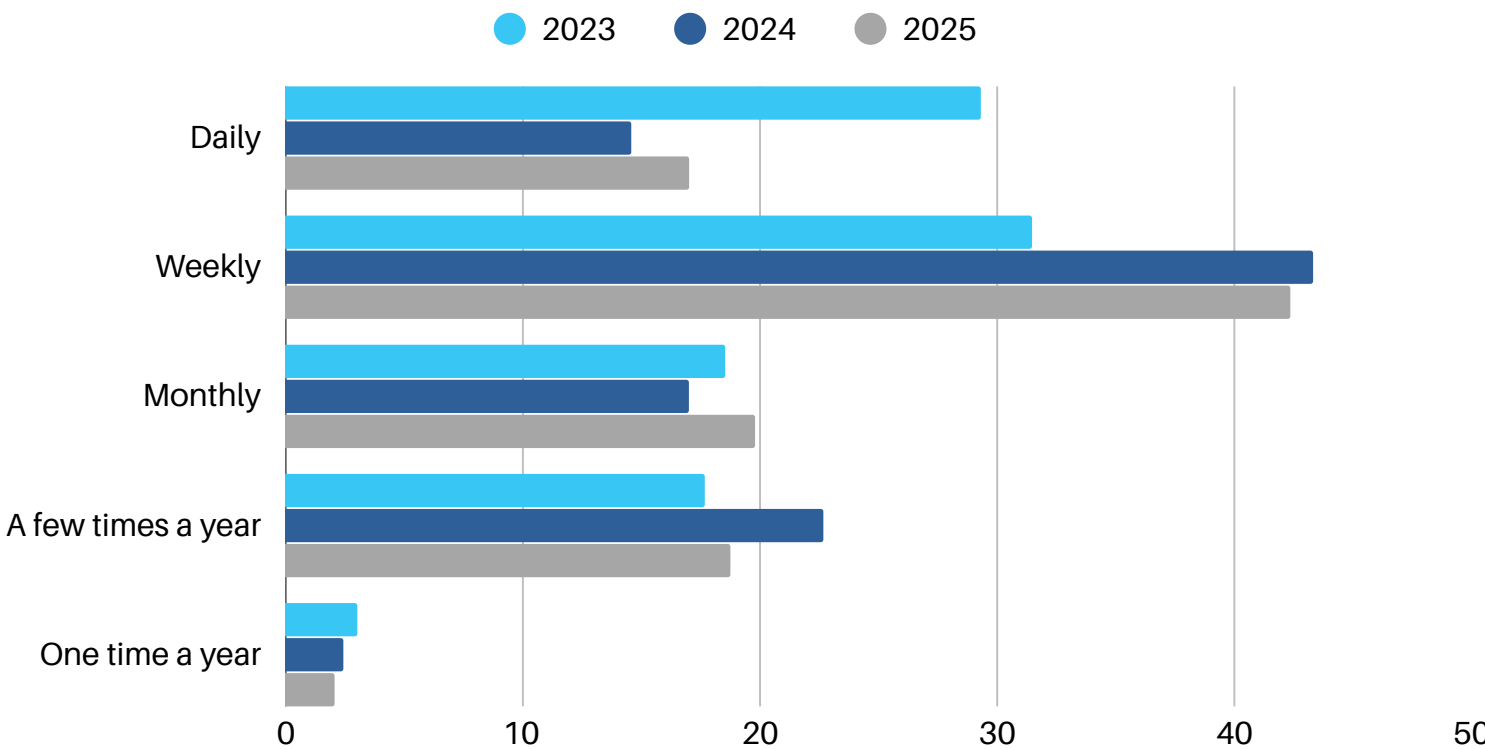
### Survey Background:

- The survey questions were created by Eatonton Main Street.
- The survey responses will assist the Eatonton Main Street Advisory Board in setting their priorities for 2026.
- The survey was distributed to the public via email and social media from December 15, 2025 through January 7, 2026.
- 288 responses were received during this time period.
  - 246 responses were received in 2024.
  - 235 responses were received in 2023.
  - 220 responses were received in 2022.
  - 196 responses were received in 2021.
  - 119 responses were received in 2020.

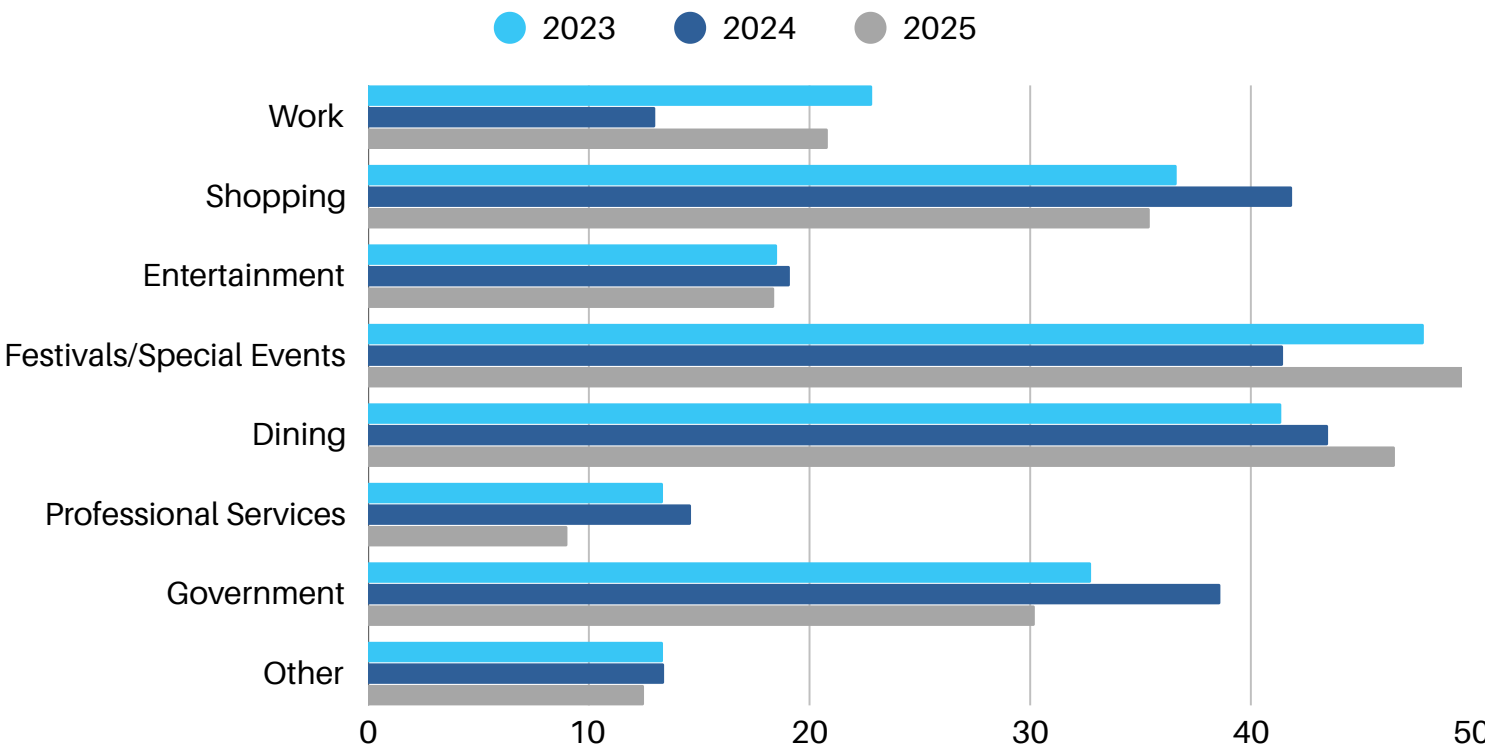
### How long have you lived in Eatonton/Putnam County?



How often do you visit Downtown Eatonton?



What most frequently brings you to Downtown Eatonton?



## **“Other” Responses:**

Schools

I go to church at the methodist church out on Jefferson st

Church

Church

Library

Banking mostly

Visiting in-laws and walking the downtown sidewalks.

I love the class offerings at the artisan guild!!!

Church

To see if things look any better.

Library

Post office and library

Halloween, Christmas, market days

I live in the historic district, so I walk downtown when exercising etc. etc.

to visit friends

Schools

Picking up grandkids from the primary school

Baby story time at the library

School

Drive through on way to work usually without stopping

Georgia Writers Museum

Fitness class

Home

Driving thru

Passing through driving

Walking for exercise and used to work out in downtown as well...very convenient instead of driving to LO or Milledgeville.

School

Library

Church

Walking

Church

Eatonton First Methodist Church

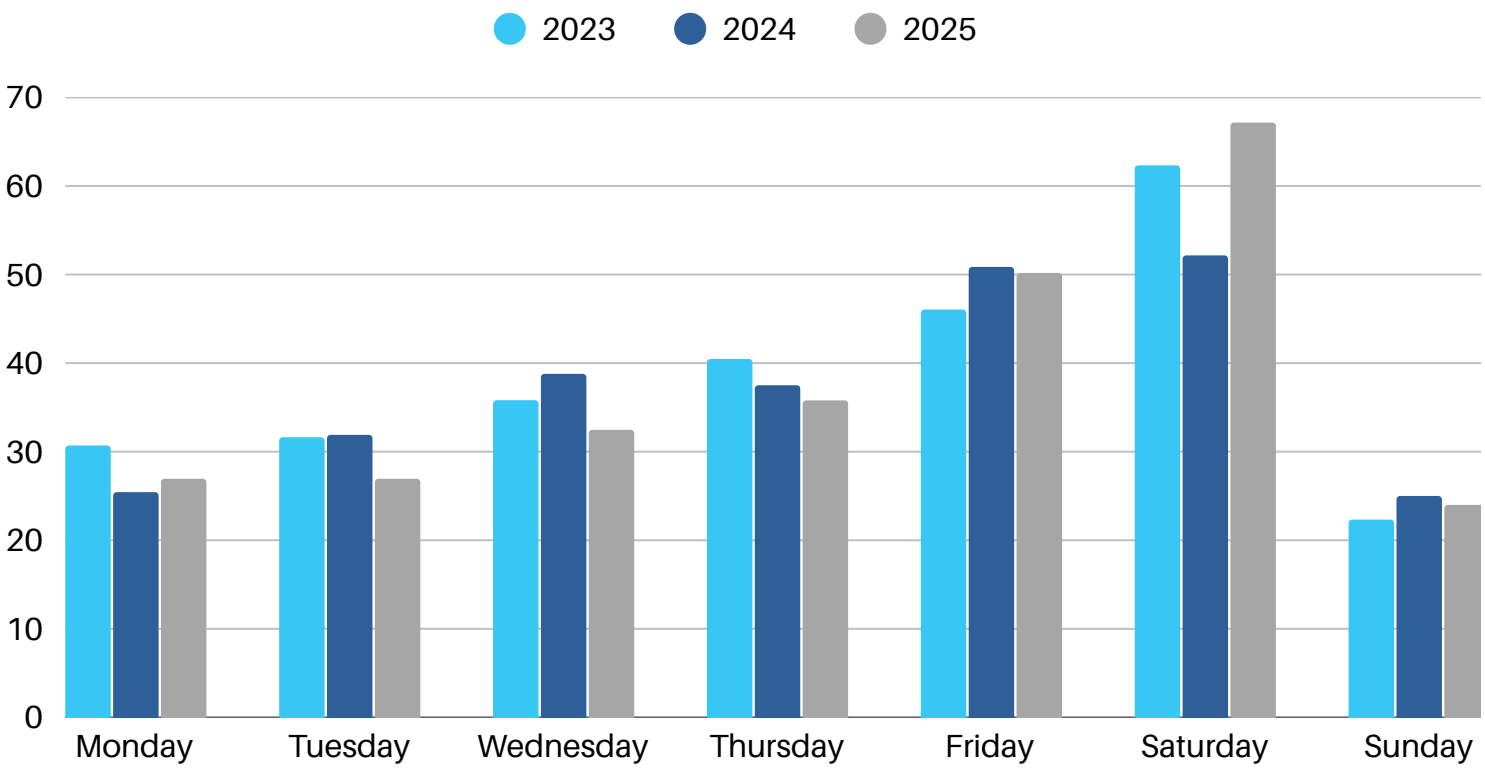
Travel through everyday for work

We own a building on Oak Street and have tenants that rent from us.

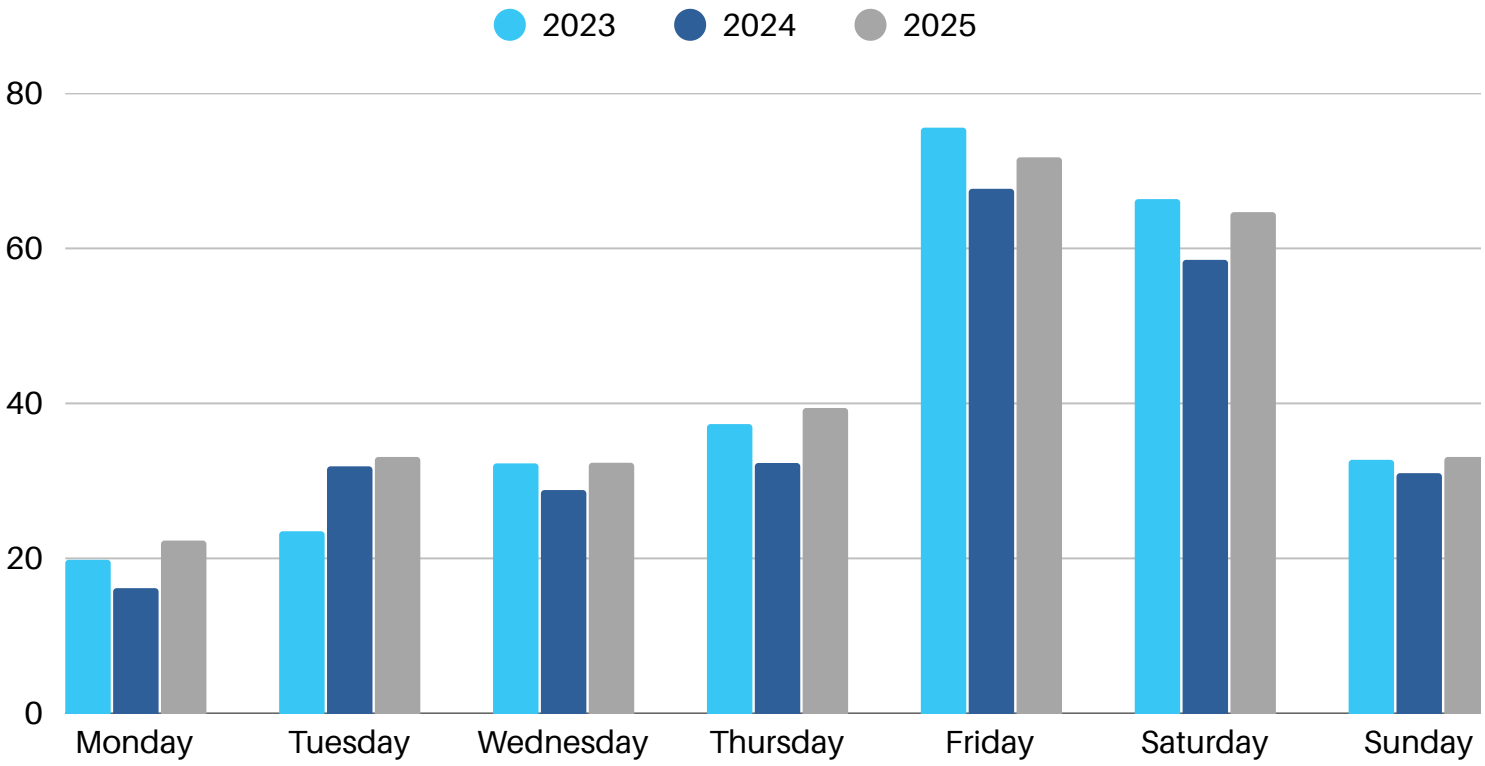
Driving through to take my kids to school and back home. The library

I volunteer at Plaza Arts Center.

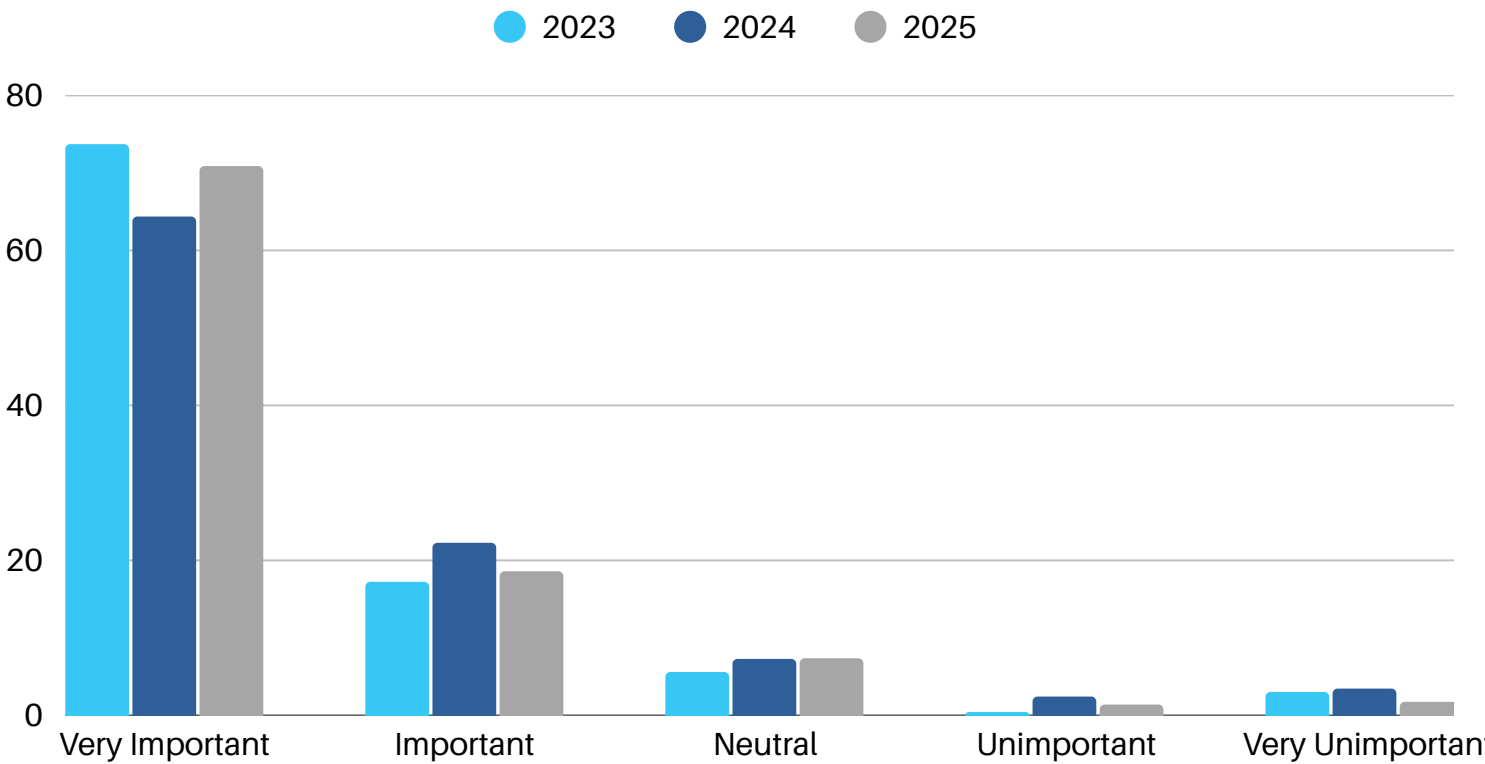
What days of the week do you typically go shopping?



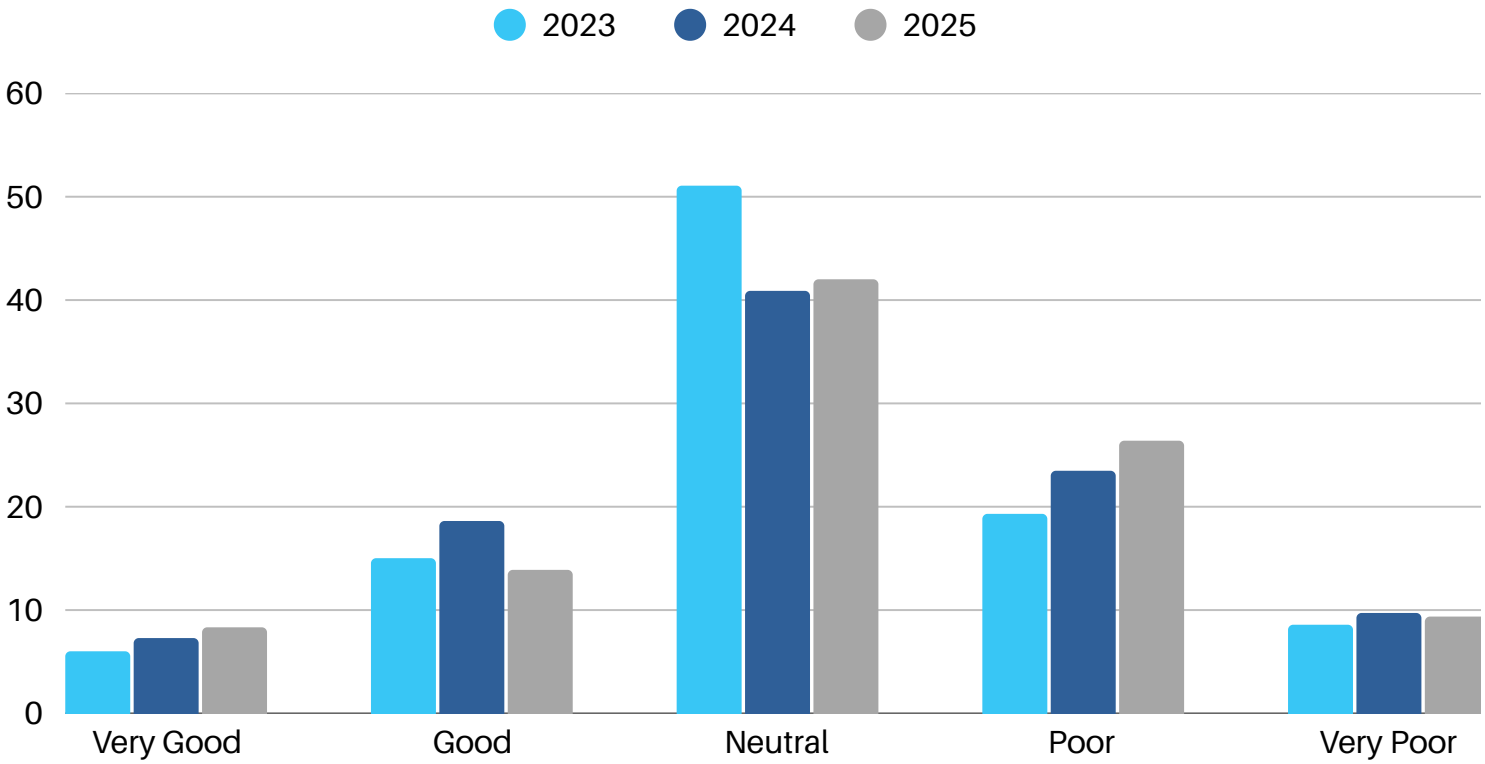
What days of the week do you typically go out to eat?



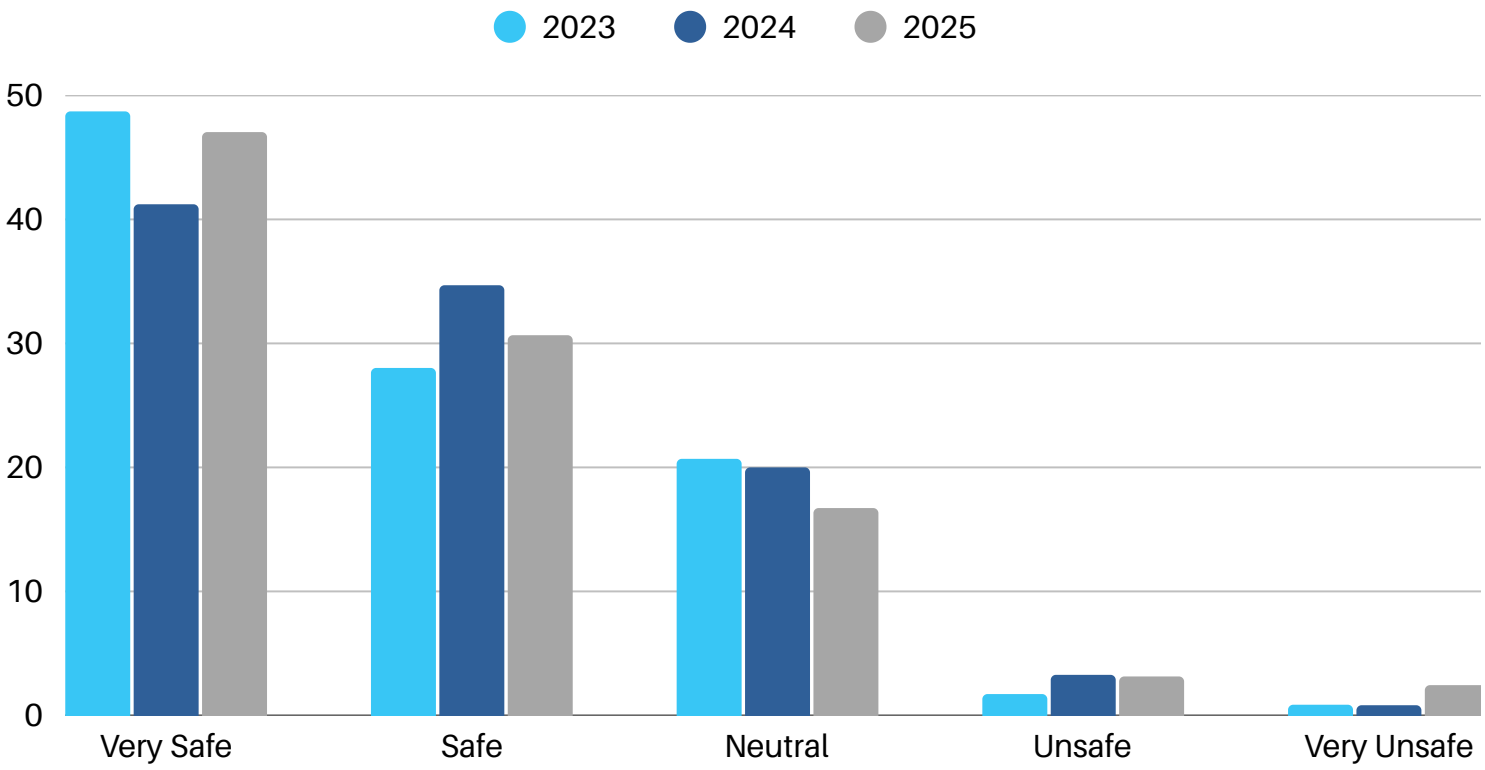
How important is it to YOU to have a thriving downtown?



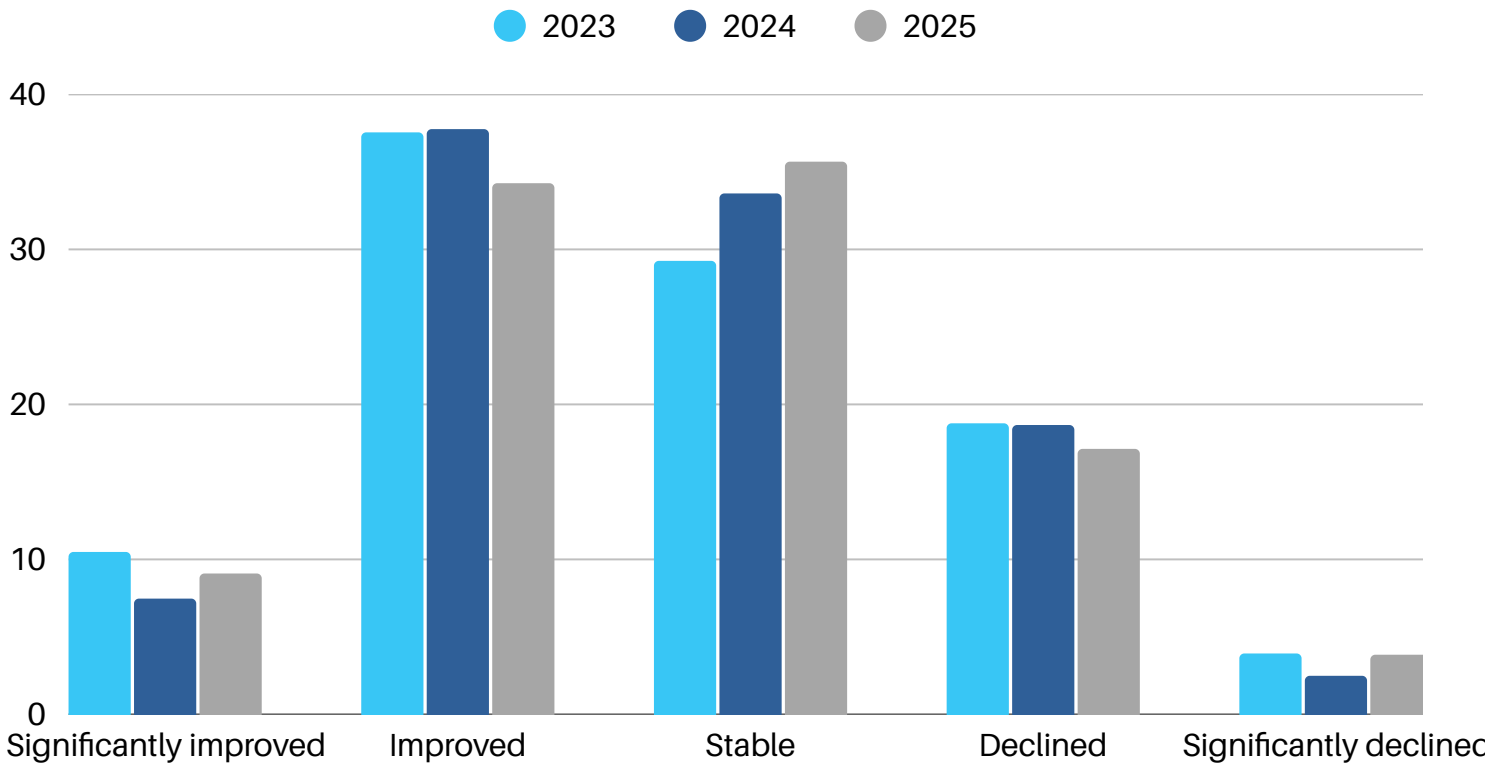
What is your general opinion of Downtown Eatonton?



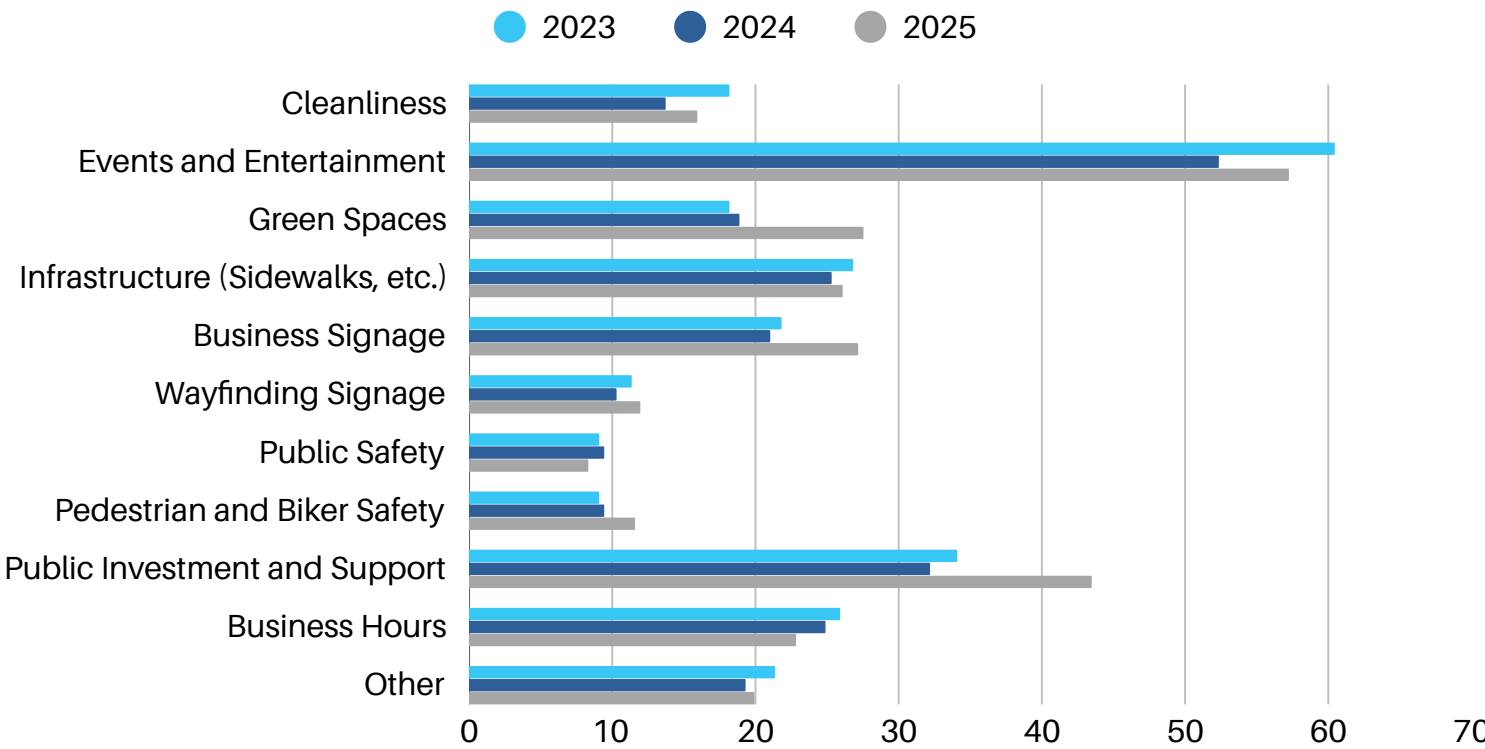
Do you feel safe in Downtown Eatonton?



How would you describe the changes happening in Downtown Eatonton over the past 3 years?



What areas of Downtown Eatonton could be improved?



“Other” Responses:

Restaurants open on Sundays. Need more dining opportunities.

New/fun businesses, seems all other towns around us have brought life to their downtown areas but we cannot. We need a green space for kids. We have no park for walking/kids- rec dept track is a joke (non existent in some areas)playground closed.

I dont know if its under greenspaces but the crape myrtles coming into town are god awful the city workers jusy take a chainsaw across the top. That's very bad for the tree itself and its ugly.We need better trees coming into it looks like Indust.Blv

places to eat that are willing to go above and beyond to thrive

More retail and restaurant option, similar to downtown Monroe and Madison.

need more restaurants and variety, such as Thai, Greek, Mediterranean, Italian (not just pizza), good steak dinners

Government and police enforcement on the use of actually using city provided sidewalks and keeping the people safe instead of almost every person walking in the middle of the road and the cops doing absolutely nothing.

Get rid of ghetto looking signage like the vape store



Get rid of having to parallel park. Instead of widening the sidewalks, it would have been so much better to make parking angled, many times I don't stop because of that.

Downtown is just not appealing. The business fronts look run down. Walk through Madison or Greensboro and everything looks kept up and clean. Eatonton does not.

Up grade planters, oversee signage, better shops

Should condemn some of the buildings falling down

More restaurants

You need a studio for painting ceramics!!!!

Appealing stores for shopping. Boutiques. Updated buildings for restaurants.

Dining and entertainment, shopping options.

More appealing restaurants and businesses. Nothing there for me

Downtown Eatonton would benefit from more development (i.e. restaurants, shops, attractions.). I've always wondered why Downtown Eatonton could'nt be more like downtown Greensboro or Madison. It has so much potential!

The streets and many parking lots need to be repaired.

Need a visible DT green space to hold festivals & events people can see or be seen and tell others about. Yall have got to get some anchor go-to business or it will never work. Hair salons, busy shops so people want to walk and dine.

Streets, the streets are in terrible condition.

Pressure Wash Sidewalks - Benches to sit - uniformed planters with changing flowers every season - gathering tables with shade on courthouse lawn.

We need to help businesses that will attract a night life. Dining, the ax throwing was great but impossible to find, things like that. We also need rules as to what kind of signs we can use. The light up signs at the smoke shop deter people like me.

Restaurants

Shopping- more "middle class" boutiques, diners. We have a strip mall mindset. Tattoos, vapes, tires, salons, ethnic signage, primary colors- aesthetics terrible

more restaurants & more shops

More parking

Family oriented Spaces, playgrounds etc

Getting the boutique hotels done. More places to shop. Perhaps more lofts to live in to have more people walking around. Lights at Christmas. Show old movies in theater. Restaurants.

More upscale restaurants

Need quaint business like Madison

restaurant quality of food.

Stores

Empty buildings.. Also, we need a place for children to go for fun/events like birthdays. The rec department doesn't even have a functioning playground.

Nice big public playground across from Zion Church. I actually have a jotted out diagram. NUMEROUS people have tried to reopen Old Piggly Wiggly/FoodMax next to CVS as several different youth events, bowling skating etc.?

More pet friendly events & eating areas. More service dog friendly store owners/staff

We need a playground

There's just not much to do unless there is a special event. Except for Sylvia's, I don't find much to come to downtown for.

Parking is a big issue for us Seniors. We will not walk several blocks to go to a business.

More shops and restaurants

More affordable businesses other than those that only cater to affluent residents. Also more affordable events at the Plaza.

Upscale restaurant, more attractive shops

Affordability of what is available. Antique stores. Variety stores.

More businesses

Sustainability. Too often new businesses don't last.

We need a Lowes or Home Depot.

Dining and shopping

would like to see more seating options, and spaces that are covered to sit and be shielded from the sun

More restaurants

Fix road downtown around courthouse sqaure.

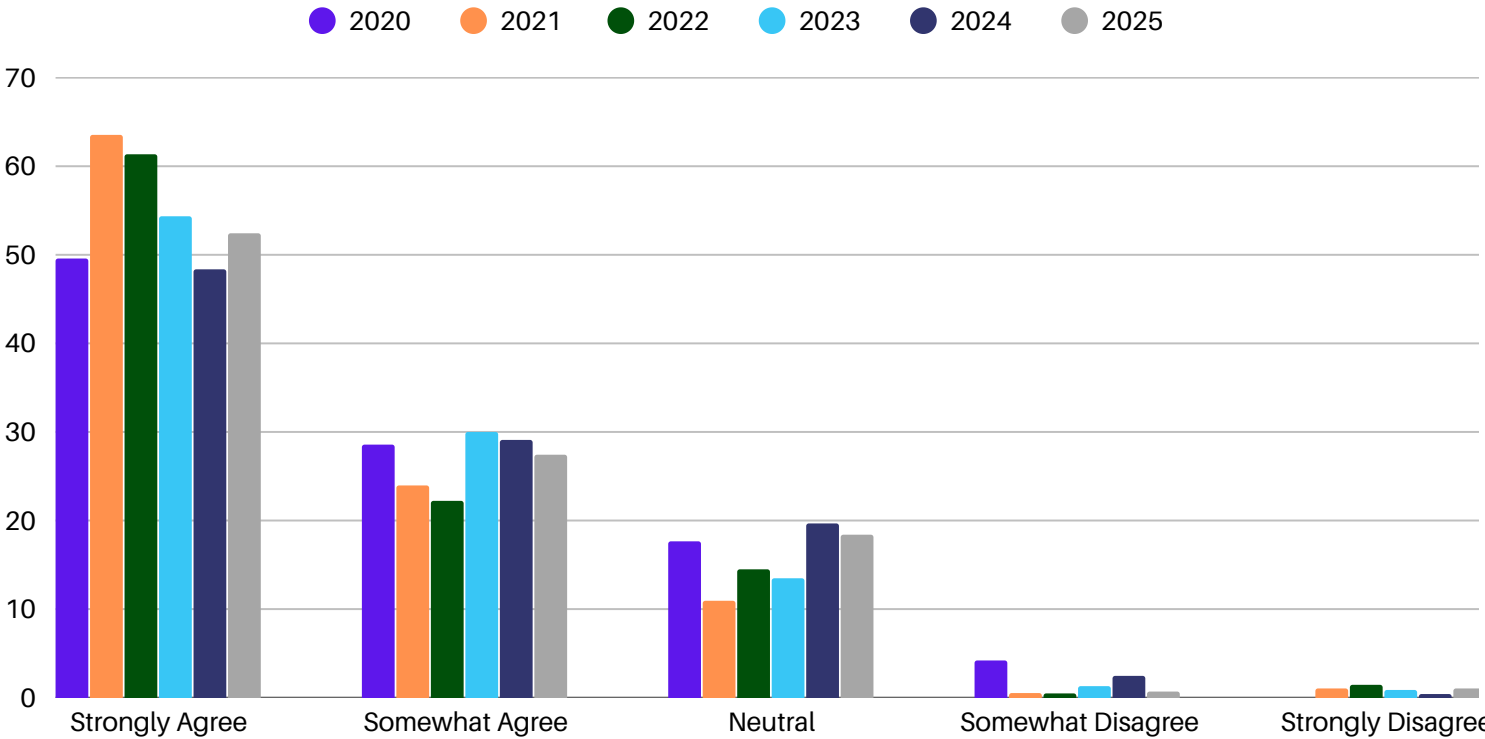
Store frontoccupancy is more business/service rather than retail or restaurants. Retail/restaurants bring foot traffic & interest. Insurance, law/medical/gov't offices etc do not. Push for retail!!!

Fewer empty storefronts/more businesses, although how you get folks to support the businesses is a huge question.

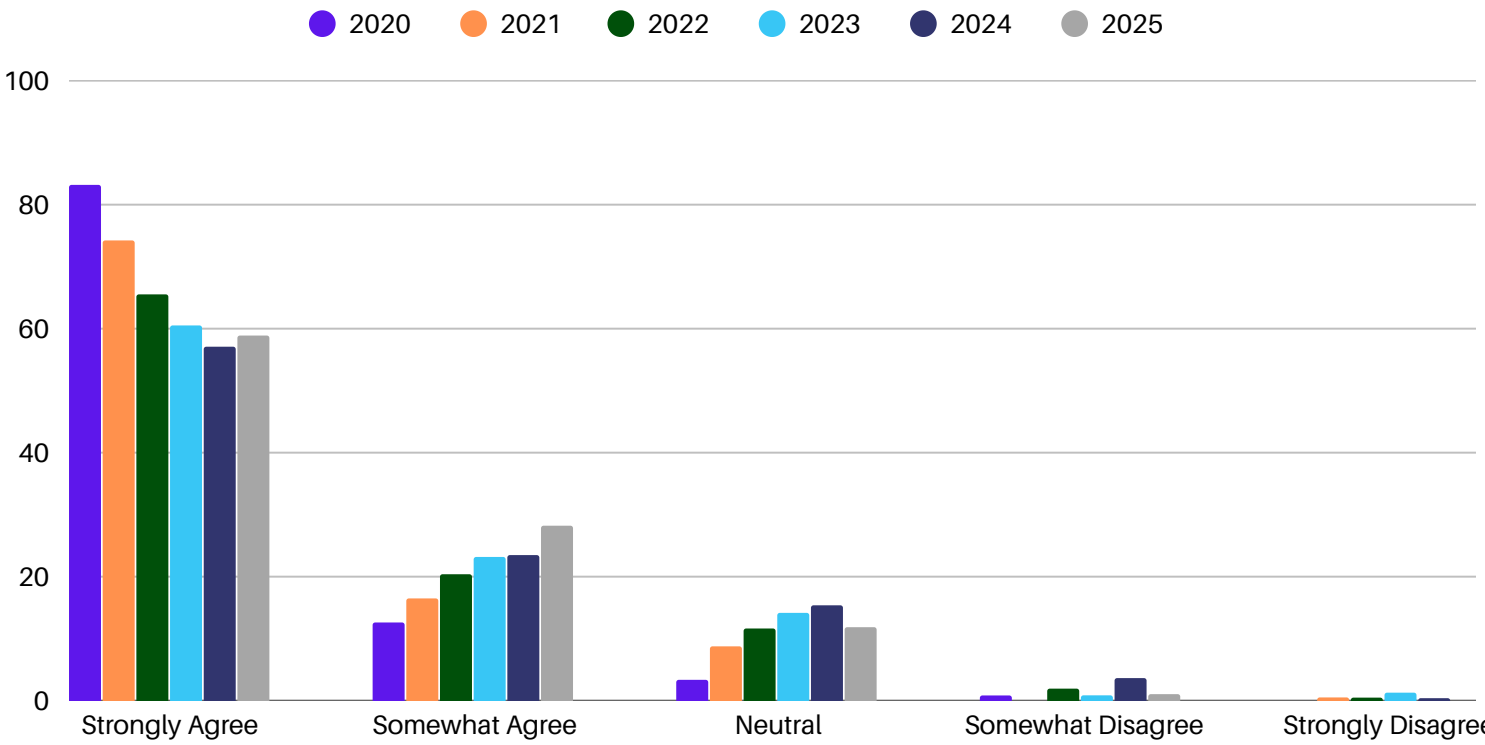
Unfortunately there aren't many good restaurant choices, so we typically choose to go elsewhere. If there were nicer dining options, we would come. We love the free downtown concerts! We appreciate the effort to attract diverse groups of people.

Need more businesses

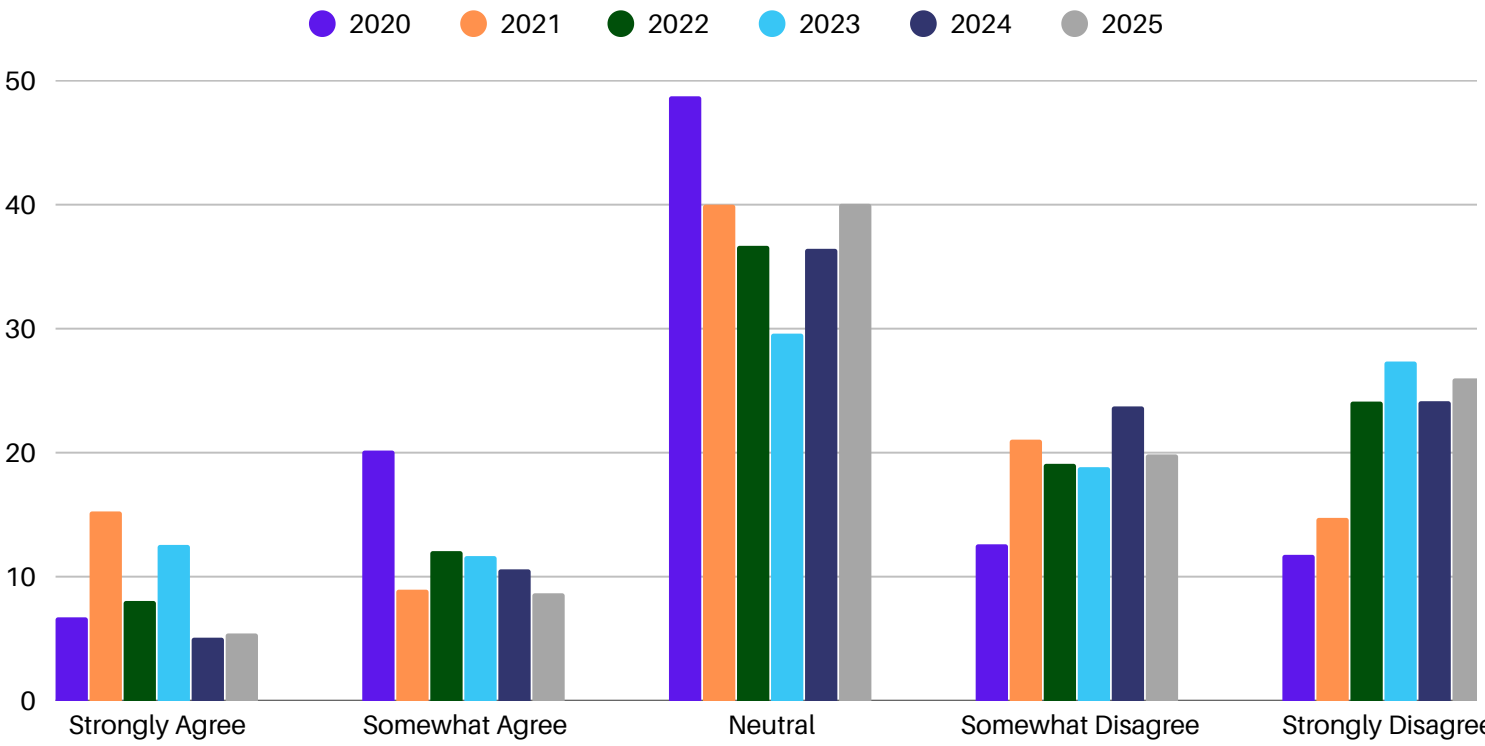
"There are not enough events in Downtown Eatonton."



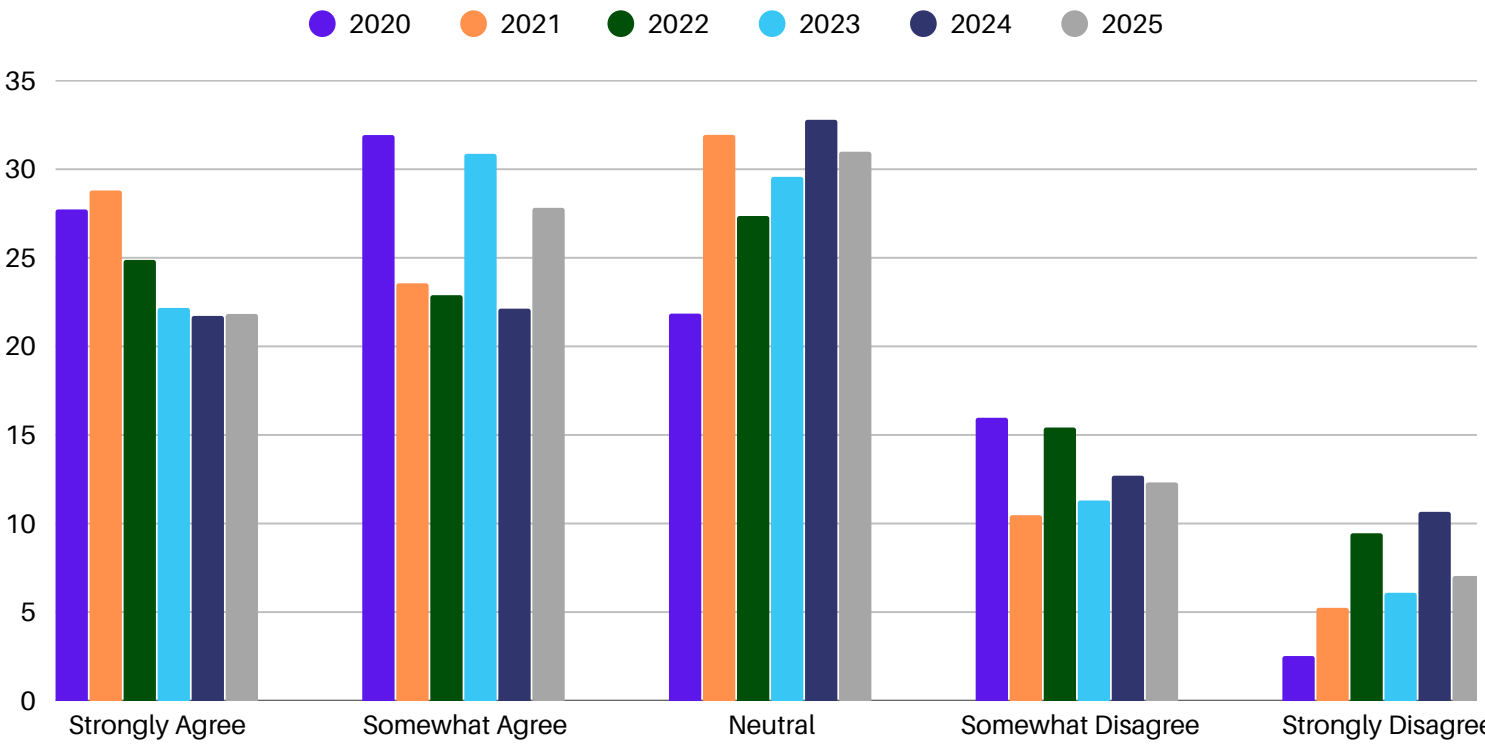
"There needs to be more businesses in downtown."



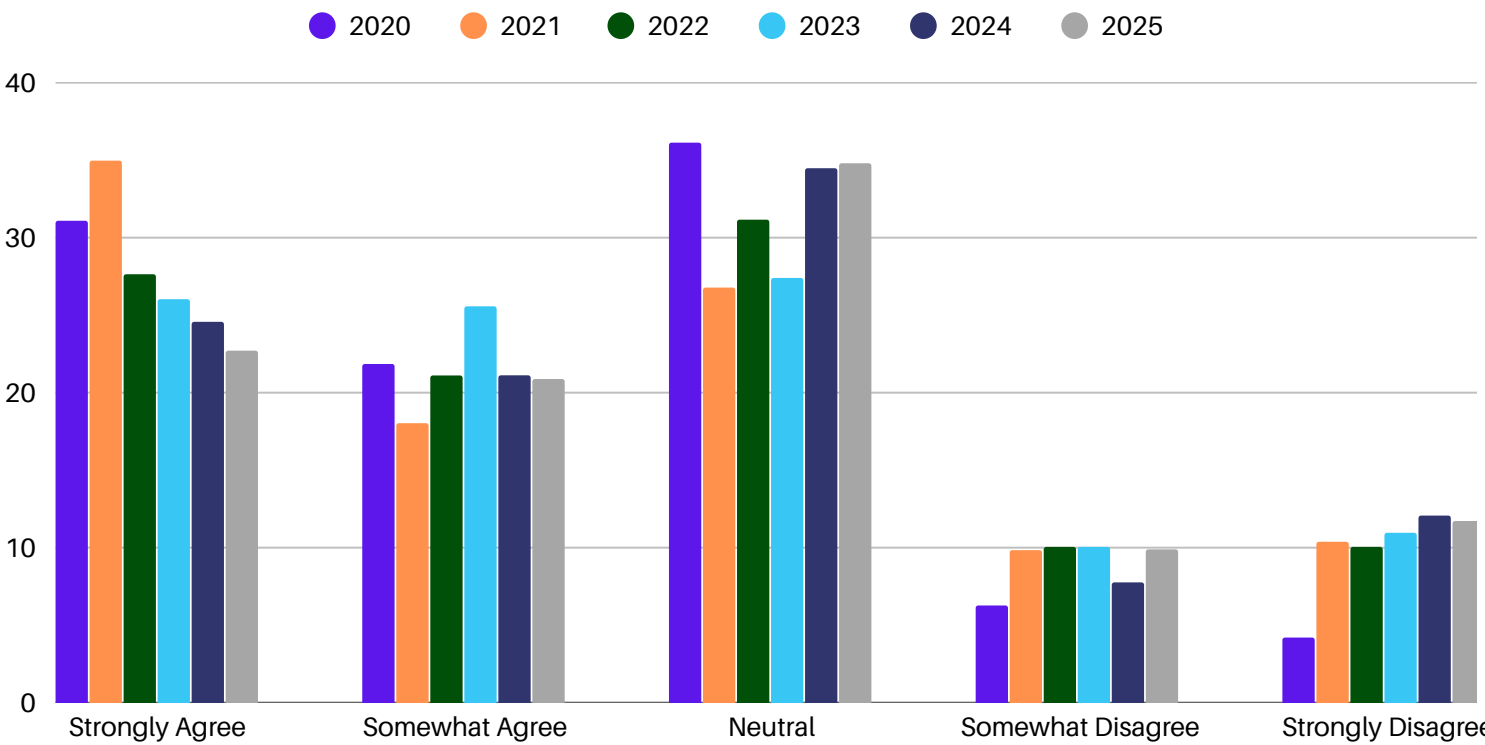
"I would like to be more involved and volunteer with Eatonton Main Street at events or on downtown related projects."



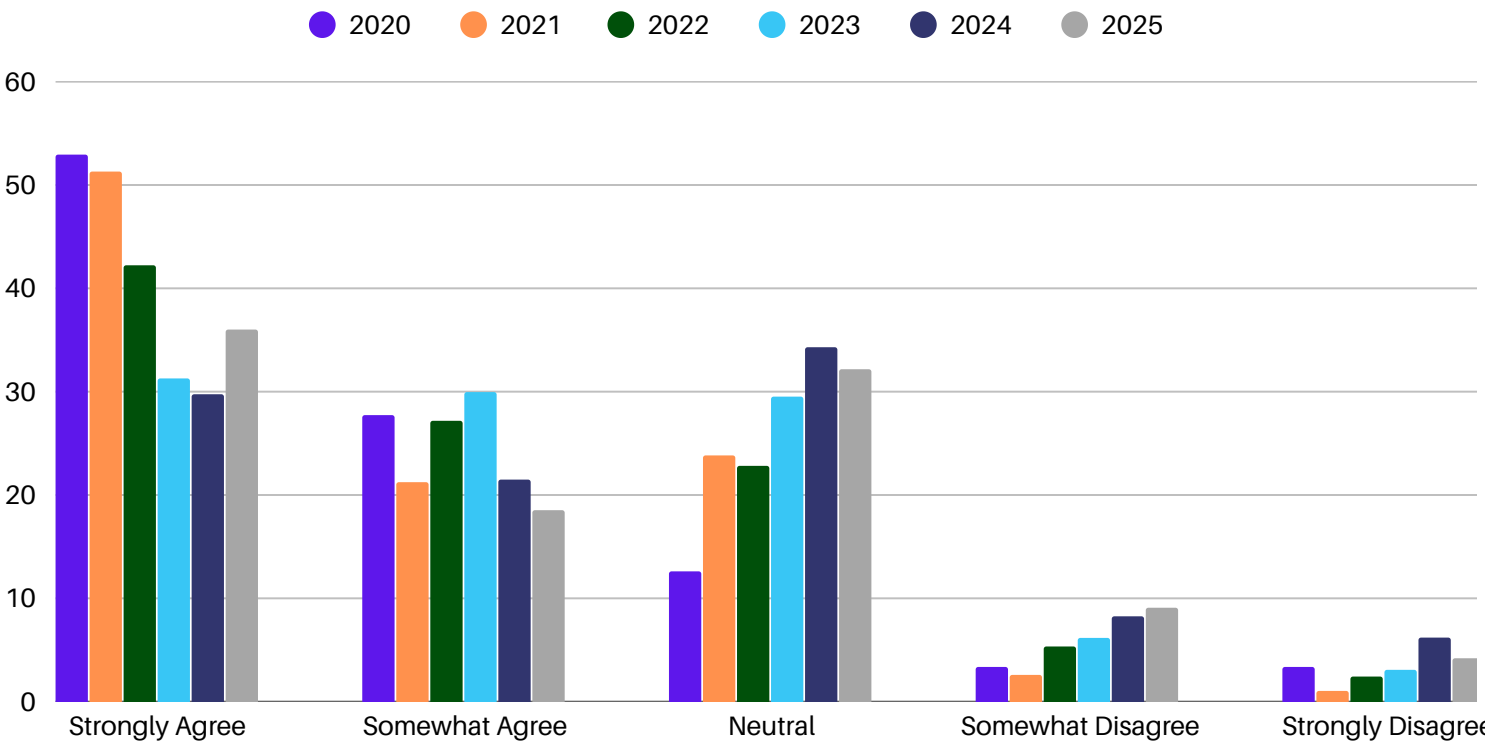
"Eatonton Main Street does a great job of keeping me informed of what's going on in Downtown Eatonton."



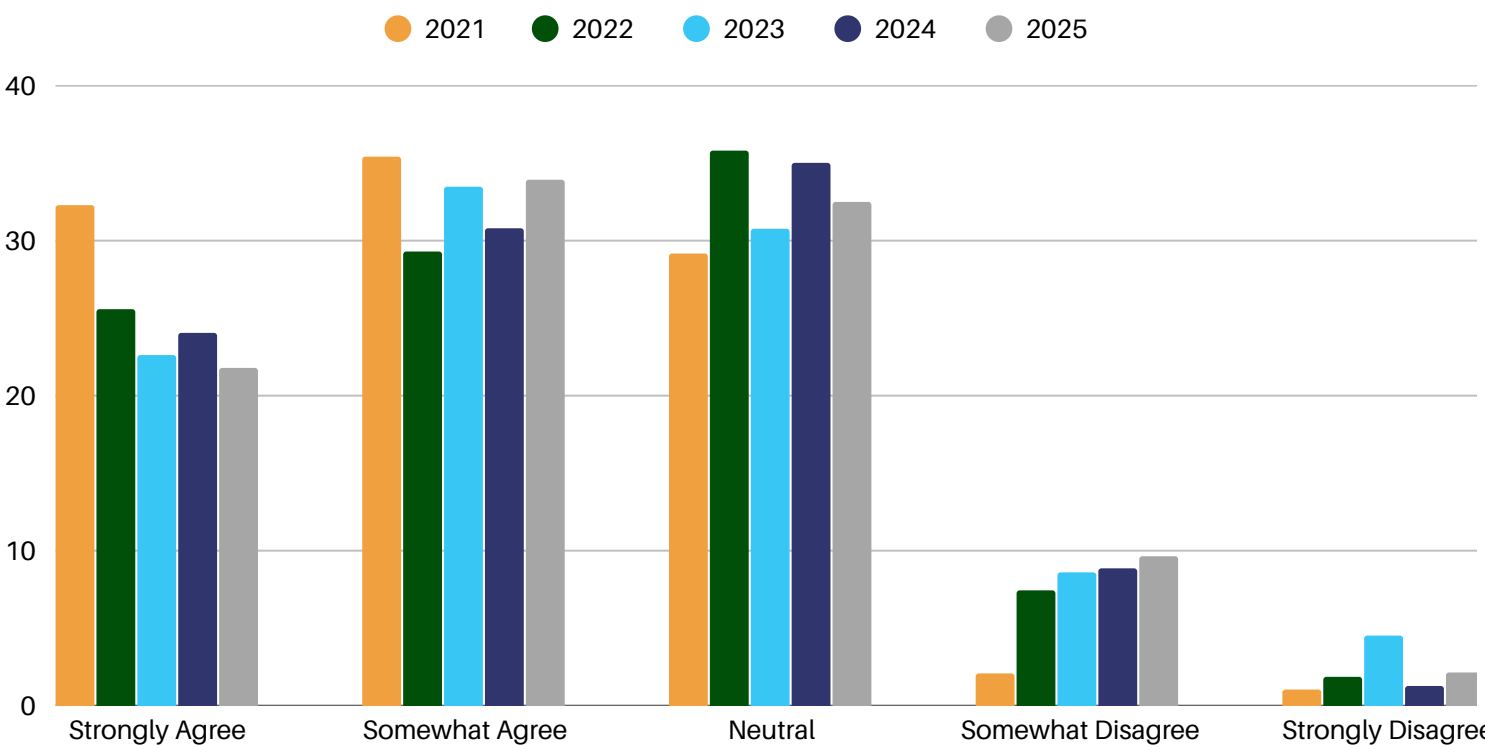
"The weekly email newsletters help me stay informed about what's going in Downtown Eatonton."



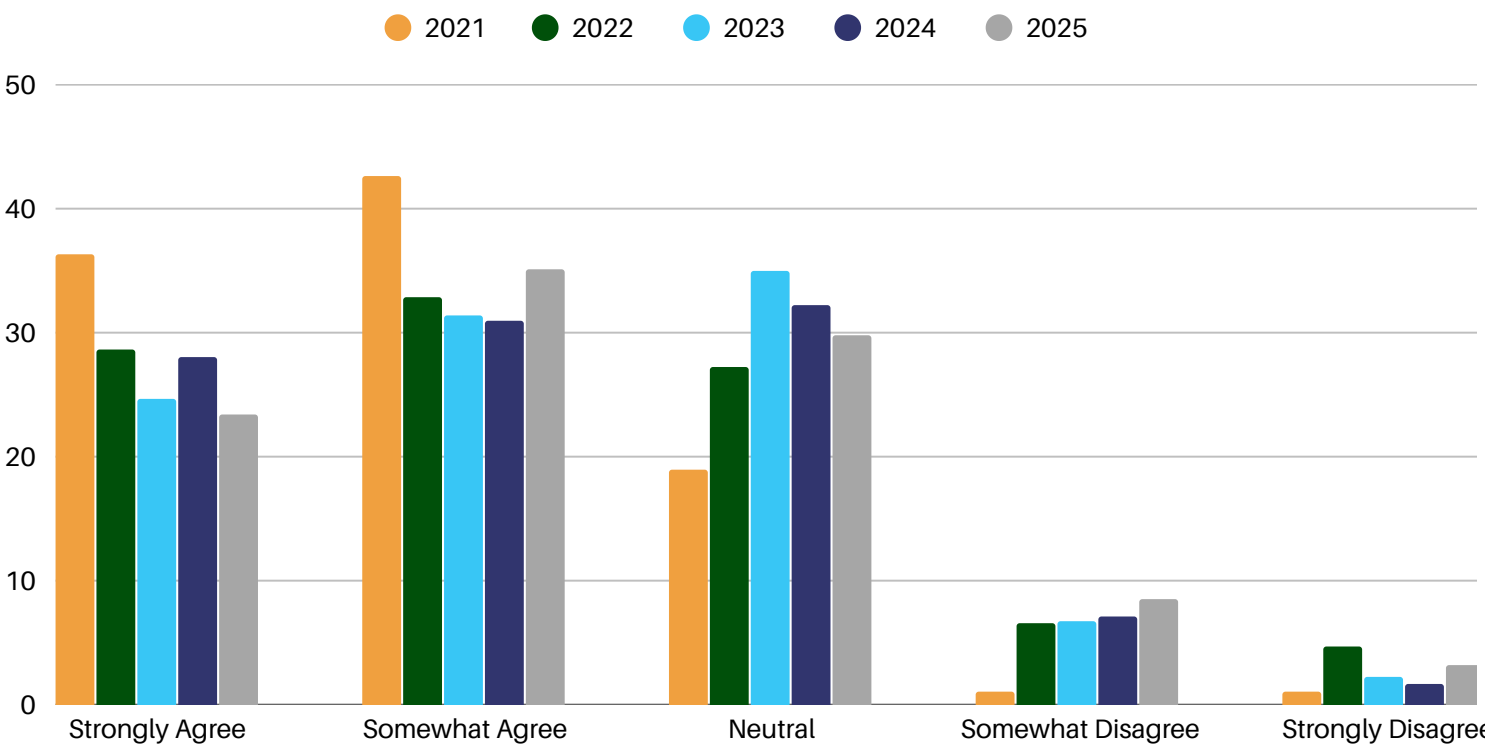
"Eatonton Main Street should invest more money into making Downtown Eatonton more aesthetically pleasing (i.e. regularly pressure washing sidewalks, more Christmas lights during Christmas, more flowers in the Spring, etc.)."



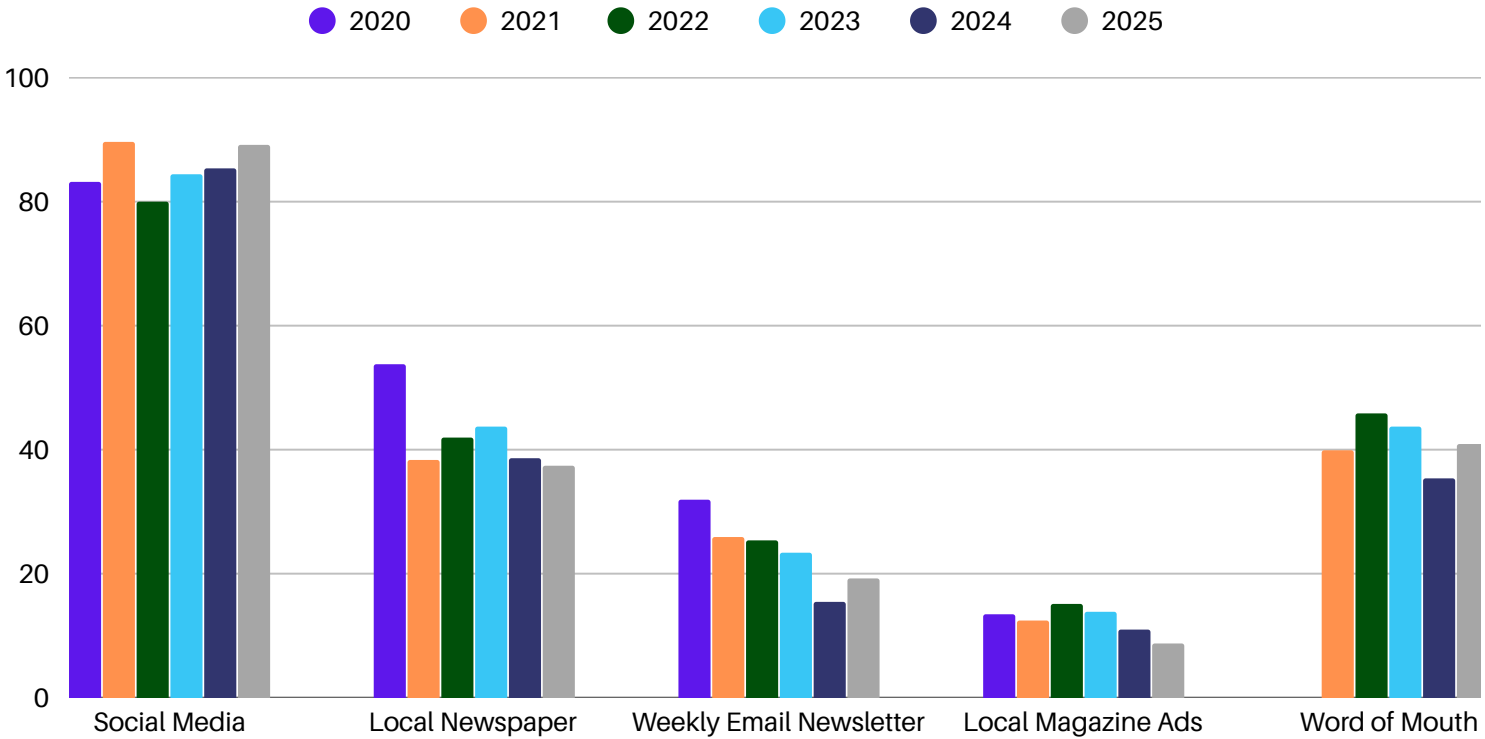
The downtown businesses have great customer service.



I have a great overall experience when I patronize a business in Downtown Eatonton.



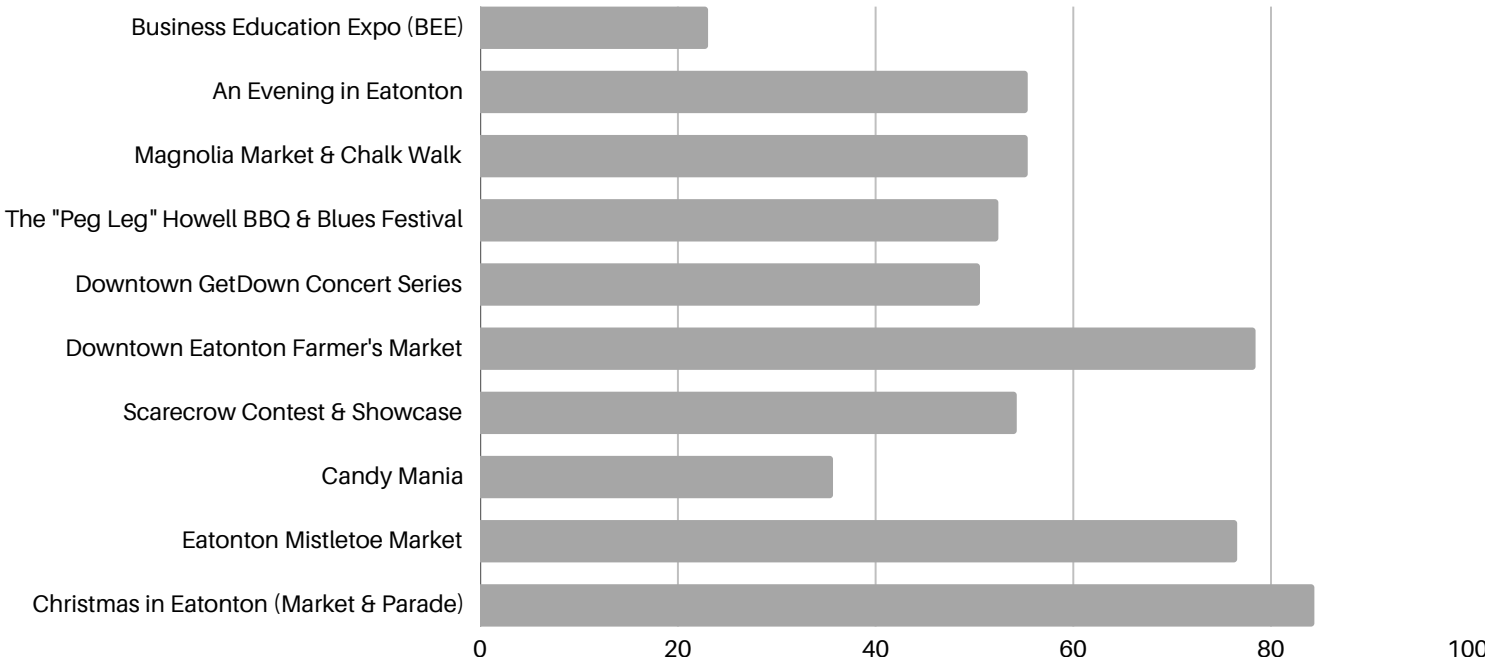
How do you learn about what's going on in Downtown Eatonton?



"Other" Responses:

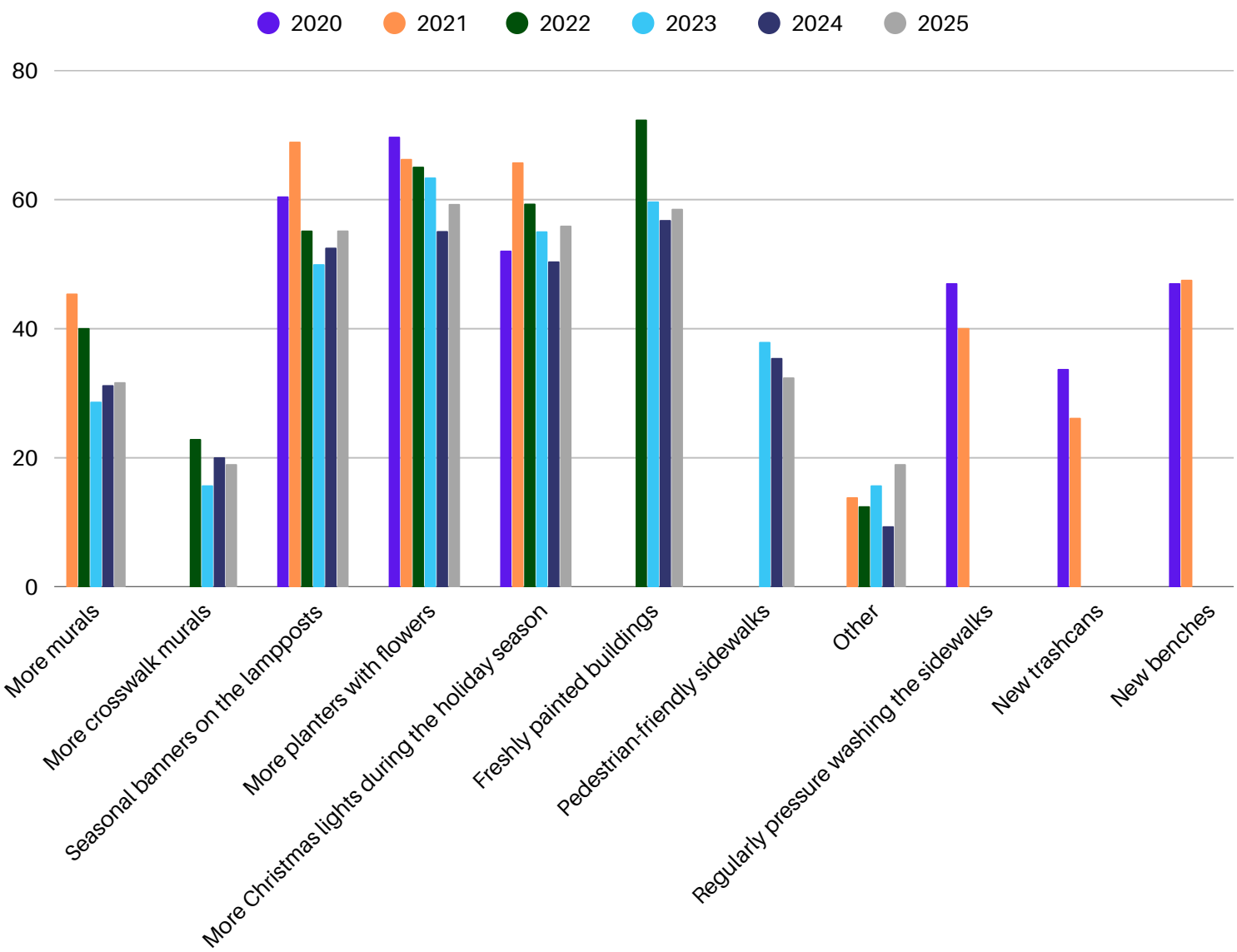
- ?
- Flyers for family events sent home through the schools
- Driving thru
- talking with friends
- Do not find out about events.
- I heard about things going on from the radio.

Which Main Street sponsored events would you to see like to take place in 2026?





# What would make Downtown Eatonton visually more appealing?



## "Other" Responses:

Don't know

Hold the businesses accountable for their appearance...2/3 businesses need better upkeep. Ie Schwimmers (?sp) it's the first place you see when you pull into town.. not a great look

Fill the empty buildings with owners who have businesses. If buildings are empty paint and make them look appealing. Have business owners keep their areas clean at all times.

Parking signs- I live here and wouldn't know I could park behind tipsy's if needed - better signage for that. Maybe apartments in older buildings so it doesn't look so unalive. Everything needs a face lift but keep the charm of being old.

Once again make coming into town pretty. When you go to madison you have these trees going down the entire way all the way from Walmart to the end of town. It makes it look welcoming not like an industrial blv

1. Signage for where the works of art are located. ready available pamphlets around town to encourage to explore. ( same with historical houses and places of interest) 2. Welcoming areas ( parks , more benches, 3. An app telling of important places

Just good business that stay. Something that gives you a reason to come. A playground area somewhere downtown would be awesome too.

make large trucks turn left to get to bypass. Have streets pedestrian during events

Do something south of courthouse (from courthouse to McDonalds). That end of "downtown" is ignored.

The downtown store fronts look run down. Not all of them, but there is no consistency in them. I understand businesses want to look unique, but there's a difference in unique and run down.

Repair or remove falling down buildings

Wheel chair friendly sidewalks and crossing.

The movie theater make it great and a useful space.

Most Buildings need to be updated

More businesses with professional signage

Making the businesses clean up. Not sure where downtown ends but coming into Eatonton past all those derelict gas stations is awful. Also why are Hispanic churches taking over shopping complexes. Looks like a Mexican village.

Tear down old sites like the Enterprise Aluminum building.

Finish the front of the theatre. It is not attractive as it is, and that purple light is hideous.

Looking like it's busy & open! Store front doors open, planters, tables with people sitting and eating/talking. Benches. Actually looking like people visit. Focus on getting people to see and be seen. Anchor quality businesses that can stay consistent.

Better parking.

Better streets and sidewalks. Eatonton isn't very appealing if you drive through it.

More restaurants/dining similar to 118. Entertainment/activities to include skee ball, pool, bingo

Paint color and tacky signage restrictions!

Clean up all the junky business

Quality restaurants

Combination of events to reach more people. Incentives to preserve historic character of building. Required maintenance of facades even if no business inside. Create guidelines for signage.

There aren't enough businesses in town or in the county. We also live in a very poor area where they do not have the money to spend,

Clean up the entrances to town, specifically the stretch from the post office to the red light

More businesses, shopping and dining. Farmers markets

Trees! Shade

Shade trees along all sidewalks (even if in large planters), sidewalk dining with standing heaters or outside table with wares or services on display, reroute log trucks and 18 wheelers to outskirts not Downtown.

Trees (same that Madison GA has in their downtown).

Have decorative scenes painted in the windows of vacant/forsale buildings to stave off the appearance of decline.

outlying businesses being cleaned up and refreshed

Less random statues- they're getting to be excessive

Downtown Playground with actual baby swing, kids event area.

Sidewalk patio areas for more pet friendly spots eat at places downtown...

Revive old vacant buildings

More businesses.

I think it's beautiful

Need more buisnesses

Mostly pressure washing all around courthouse, curbs and sidewalks.

It needs more of a welcoming small town feeling, maintaining healthy trees for the hot GA sun. Love the mural with the pink flowers! The lights downtown regardless of the time of year are beautiful after the sun goes down!

Encourage the businesses to clean up their parking lot.

not more planters with flowers, but having the city handle the planters again so they ALL have flowers and are adequately watered throughout the season not freshly painted buildings, but better maintained buildings with nicer signage and awnings

Extend the Christmas decorations further down the Main Street.

Awnings for each building bright colorful each building has a different color, yellow blue green red. I saw this in Marietta. It was very nice and welcoming.

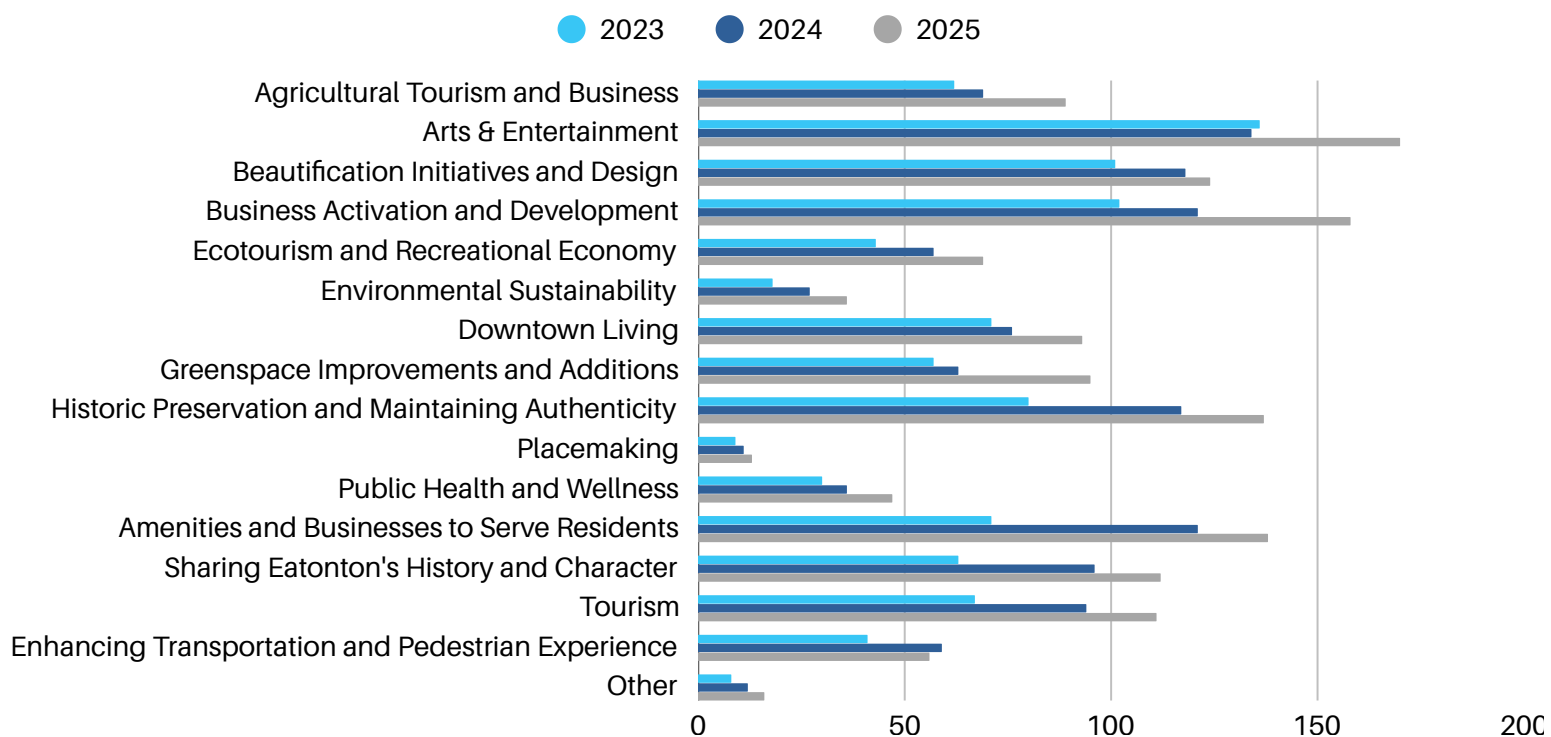
I like the hanging baskets, like the ones they have in Greensboro

Get more businesses or pop-ups in the empty and underutilized buildings. Too many empty building owners are waiting for values to go up or set prices too high or unreasonable so they aren't selling/renting. Pass codes to clean up messy buildings.

Please don't put any more murals. They're unsightly, tacky and ruin the historic appeal of the old buildings.

Trees & lights year round

What would you like Eatonton Main Street to focus on in the next 3-5 years?



"Other" Responses:

Have experiences that will draw visitors to Eatonton for their history and build up the town square.

Restaurants.

good italian restaurant

Downtown living does not mean "affordable housing." If you want to attract more businesses investment you have to have attract middle class families to downtown.

You have all of these short term rentals. Find a way to get them to town to spend money. Helping the existing restaurants with small business loans to improve their facilities and existence in town. I think some of the locations really need help!

It would be great to see a variety of businesses attracted to town. We used to have an antiques furniture, and other little shops. There are only so many niche restaraunts people can afford. Would love to see initiatives to use the vacant buildings.

Event & fountain area space near the courthouse.Buy out those dinky business next to the courthouse and build a decent green space with parking around it like Madison. Tourism, add quality anchor businesses and better consistently good restaurants.

Get PINE GROVE CEMETERY CLEANED UP AND REPAVEF

Walking is difficult for me. Eatonton is amazing to walk through. How about wheelchair borrowing for those of us who love showing off this town

Start including the beautiful Carnegie Library that we have it seems like it is being forgotten

More events in the downtown area that will attract people to the businesses. Car shows and the like. A car show (trunk or treat) on Halloween morning for the kids and then the Halloween event in the evening. An entire day for the kids.

We need a trolley to do tours and take people around town to these the history while stopping at the writers museum and Uncle Remus.

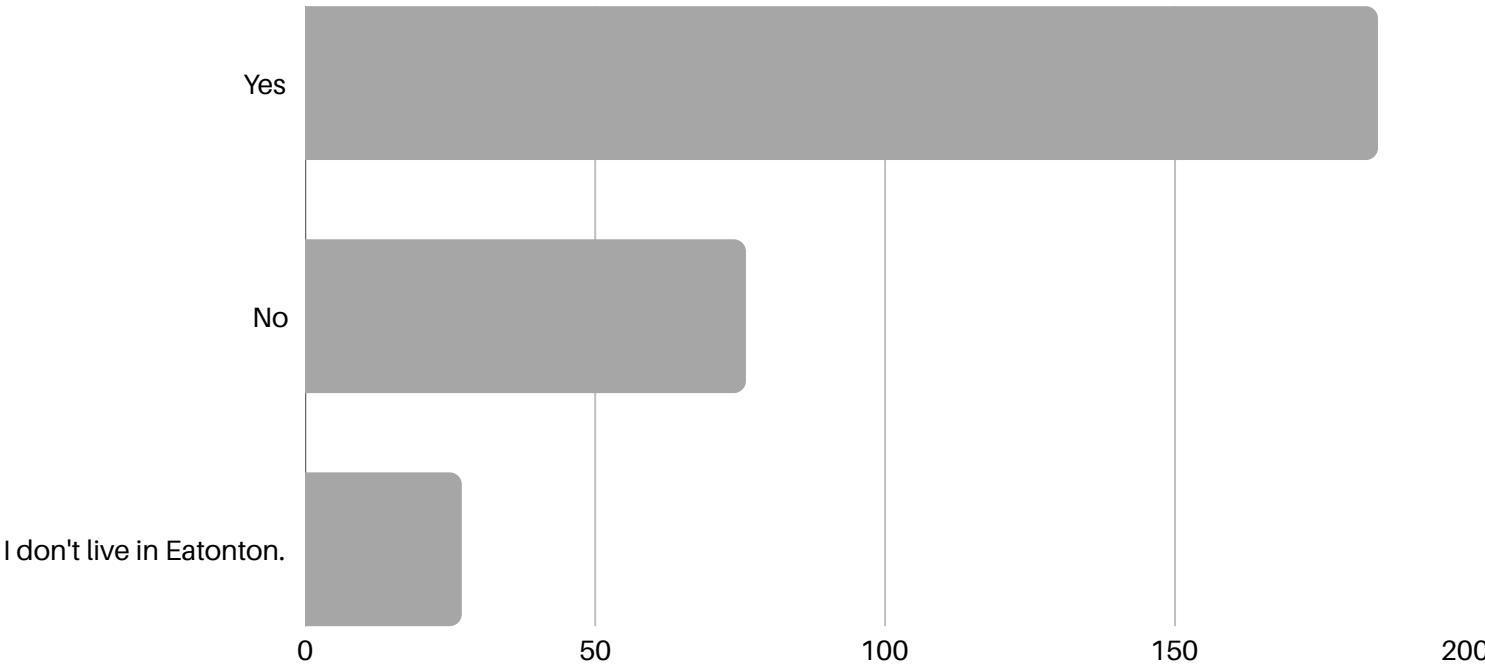
Restaurants

BETTER RESTAURANTS! Kinas is great. Topsy Turyle went to greasy heck, El Casador has roaches... We need a mom and pop GOOD PIZZA PLACE!

More family events!!! Car shows, events that include all of the family to bring them together!!! More family time with our family in the community!! More events for kids and teenagers!!!! We hate having to go to other counties and wish ours did more!

Attract more reasonably priced restaurants and maybe have an activity center, especially for senior citizens.

**According to the Cambridge Dictionary, civic pride is defined as "a feeling of belonging to and being proud of the town or city where you live." Do you have civic pride when you think of Eatonton?**



**Describe your ideal downtown 10 years from now. Share with us any visions, ideas or thoughts for the future.**

Thriving businesses AND many dining opportunity

Cleaner... holding residences accountable for maintaining their 100 year old homes... be more like madison

I would like Eatonton to have a great downtown area where visitors and/or homeowners would be proud to participate in restaurants, theater, small boutiques, and businesses similar to Madison or Greensboro.

I see a town that looks inviting from the outside that makes me want to park my car and go explore- it makes me say- this looks like a neat town.

Lots of delicious restaurants and fun events.

Antiques, lunch and dinner spots, REAL PRODUCE not just tomatoes and honey

I see a welcoming small Town that caters to the downtown . Areas to park, possibly a hop on & off Trolleys to showcase the areas of interest . Tickets available in several areas ; local business .

Different shops. Would love a place where we could shop and eat lunch together but there are not enough shops.

Love downtown Eatonton! We have such amazing amenities with the plaza theater with the Georgia writers Museum with the artisans gallery, we just need more shops and restaurants to flesh it out. Really hoping the hotel is still going to get developed because that will bring it. Not sure of the status on that. Thank you for all that you do to bring the vibrancy to our downtown and please continue doing it and looking for fresh ways to bring more businesses in! Thank you!

More shops downtown. We don't have anywhere downtown to buy antiques or home decor.

More businesses. More downtown activities. Check out Apex, NC and mimic what they have done. Encourage new businesses and restaurants.

Car shows Chick-fila Concerts on the square, not behind the buildings and rail road tracks. More activities for the kids

I live in downtown. So places to walk and eat. I have small kids so a play area where you could meet with friends and play. Downtown Covington is what comes to mind. Where people drive their golf carts to town and place to eat and hangout. Just a common area.

More restaurants and pedestrian friendly. Attractive to tourists with more variety in stores for all of us. Check out Delray Beach, FL. I lived there and although the downtown ended at the beach it was dead downtown. They started by having 'Art and Wine' once a month outside with music. They encouraged artisans and antique dealers to move there and gave them special deals to live downtown over their shops. (Not possible for many of the shops in Eatonton.). Now, it is crowded with tourists.

More shopping options from well known brands, not secondary market options. It seems the shopping options are second string vendors, not known brands. I don't feel safe at night downtown. During the day, not a problem, even by myself.

More businesses, restaurants and events in downtown Eatonton. I think a 1st Friday event like Milledgeville does would be great for the community to come together every month.

A more bustling city life with spaces for community growth and well being, a space for the town to meet up and use different spaces downtown, ease of access and walking making it more walkable and bikable instead of being a car dependent city, just better use of space and resources. Safe walking throughout city and police interactions not acting like they're better or scared of the people in the city. Things like this to make the city more inviting and a place we're people wanna settle.

I think you need to find ways to bring in some more shops and good ! Eating places

Streets filled with families shopping and spending time outside. Tourists visiting the rich cultural sites.

Hopefully

Outdoor/Patio dining. An around town greenway, bike/walking path. A quarterly tour of the town maybe by tractor pull or bus tour driving past some of the lovely historic homes. Y'all some of these people are putting so much love into their yards. It's a shame not to show them off seasonally. A once a month street party with vendors, art & craft sales, beer & wine, music. (The city of Roswell does Alive at 5, an eclectic street party, one Thursday evening every month from April-October. So cute)

Our downtown needs so much more. It needs more evening and night time entertainment. It needs a fresh face-lift and revamped. There are so many small town squares we could emulate, Madison, Covington, Conyers. We need something for everyone of all ages. No, I am not inviting the chaos of those towns, just the idea there would be something fun for everyone downtown. Has anyone thought of an ice cream shop? There is an ice cream shop, The Topsy Scoop, that sells liquor infused ice creams, maybe a

More of all types entertainment and restaurants

Sure would be nice to have a bingo hall

A few more small businesses. New paint on the buildings. More green space for children to play. Scoops ice cream shop.

Freshly painted buildings. Clean up old trashy looking businesses in the area. Add more restaurants and shopping. Clean up the Piggly Wiggly.

More Events on the court house lawn, nice restaurants, art galleries, dog park.

My ideal vision is to have no empty stores, more restaurant options, no parallel parking, Christmas lights south of courthouse.

busy bustling downtown with a lot of shopping, eating, outdoor music events etc. a place to go spend the afternoon and night eating and drinking and enjoying outdoor concerts

A vibrant downtown area that has eateries and green spaces. One that is visually appealing while keeping the historic charm.

Similar to a Covington or Monroe. Shops/ restaurants/ coffee. Able to go out for a night with people moving about. A park for kids to play in.

Very much like the way it is now. Small town living, clean, and safe. Some more businesses and more hours of activity would be nice to help bring all types into downtown. Having a bit more of a nightlife scene would be nice for unwinding and enjoying the town after work or a long week and it would be nice to see multiple options of various scenes and price points all within walking distance to provide a centralized point for socializing and networking outside of established groups or orgs.

This town needs a thriving downtown life. We need to bring in more businesses and more events that appeal to everyone. The chili cookoff in Madison draws in thousands and makes a good stream of revenue. There are very few kid friendly activities and events, let's make that a priority. the downtown area needs a better aesthetic appeal,

I would love a downtown that has more parks, arts, plays, shows. I love the arts barn but it's infrequent and needs more advertising. The pex theater - does it even operate? I don't even know as a transplant here. The downtown needs a SEVERE refresh, especially by that orange colored wing place. Adding sidewalks to north maple avenue would justifiably widen the roadway a bit and also beautify that hideous corner.

Take a look at Danville Kentucky. Fully occupied downtown.

Upscale dining, antique and gift stores. Demolition of rundown properties, less auto repair around the Courthouse area

Restaurants with bars



Madison

Small town with lots of charm and spirit. Lots of happy people with happy thoughts and good attitudes. I encourage young families to spend time downtown, at the library, at the parks, etc.

Redo the fronts of the buildings and make them appealing spaces the potential is there make it charming. Make it inviting otherwise I never stop downtown Eatonton.

I would love to have farmers markets monthly or bi-weekly. I would love to see more festivals and craft fairs. I would love to see Eatonton start a yearly fair where children can compete and show all of their hard work in their interests. Example: show animals, plants, crafts, cooking, etc.

Take a look at downtown Covington, Madison, even Milledgeville. More businesses and restaurants and a beautiful aesthetic.

Thriving downtown area for the whole community to enjoy.

All the so called businesses using the oil d gas startions would be made to keep them clean and presentable. The two shopping centers would be rehauled and turned back into shopping centers not Mexican churches. Have heard from several businesses they are waiting on business licenses from two years ago. Mayor, council and city clerk need to be gotten rid of need new blood and someone who cares about helping businesses not just themselves.

Not sure

That the downtown is thriving and alive like it was in the 1980s. That there is things for teenagers and children to do. There needs to be a park with playground equipment i.e. swings slides teeter totters. Picnic tables in the park ( white children will not go to the Davis park. they are made feel unwelcomed and it is not safe over there) There needs to be a park for children and families that all children and families can go to in downtown.

More like downtown Greensboro.

Restructuring the roads in downtown Occupy all vacant buildings Restructured sidewalks

Not sure.

Eatonton has no identity. It was Brer Rabbit/Uncle Remus and cows, and now all that is kind of faded. It's a poor, small town that looks like no one visits it, and the restaurants are not good around it. It changes too much. It is not a place people want to hang out and see and be seen. It has no atmosphere. You need to build a garden, fountain central space with parking around it to host festivals, events etc. You need some named businesses, modern salons, and outside eating spaces.

Better variety of business. Bakery, butcher, outdoors store, etc.

Better local stores, refurbished store fronts. A reason to be in Eatonton, there's nothing there. I've walk through it many times and shake my head.

A (VCC - Village Conservation Community) view VillageHabitat.com ( bring the forest, urban farm & neighborhood) into a walkable/bikeable/sustainable COMMUNITY! Also view (Suburbia is Subsidized- you do the math) a 10 minute video by Urban3 regarding the Financial Aspect of Land/Building Utilization & Tax Implications.

Diverse and safe environment utilized by all citizens

Empty storefronts refurbished and renovated and filled with thriving businesses. Attractive signage, ordinances that protect historic facades, and deny inappropriately lighted signage. Shout out to the Taylors for the careful and attractive way they restore their buildings. Parking will need to be addressed somehow—directives to lots.

I would love for us to have something similar to Monroe. Maybe tax breaks for new businesses that we want for a couple of years.

More restaurants and shops

Good restaurants and lodging. Destination venue for music.

A small town charm feeling. Multiple events every season. Turn Eatonton to a real life “ Stars Hollow” from Gilmore Girls

Madison, Monticello, Monroe, Social Circle- they have curb appeal, safety, class, diversity of stores from antiques to modern day boutiques, eateries that look like historical but CLEAN. We have empty stores, and junk options

I envision a thriving downtown with vibrant businesses....cafes, shops, fine dining, wine bar, brewery, live music venues. Did I mention BREWERY?

A place people want to visit. Being equivalent to surrounding towns

A larger Venue for activities with stage and nearby parking. Additional green space and walkways.

Businesses flourish and using all the buildings around the square that are empty rn. Nicer restaurants to eat at.

Restaurants, business

Still small and walkable, but a jewel! Buildings maintained and supporting new businesses. More trees and flowered, places to sit outside and talk. Good breakfast stop, and restaurant. Shops that encourage shopping like antique markets, gift stores.

We won't have a town if we do not bring in industries for jobs.

Keeping it simple. No work and live places. Love to keep the current esthetics and history

WAY more color to it pleasee, more plants, more culture related to ethnicity, more light events.

Family friendly restaraunts, clothing stores, mercantile stores, bakery, outdoor seating, greenery, family fun.

More business, and continued beautification

More places to eat. We rarely go to Eatonton because there's so few options.

We live in the countryside and would like a more lively downtown to shop, dine, enjoy parks/disc golf as well as enjoy taking visitors and guest to the area. We typically decide to spend that time in other areas and towns rather than downtown Eatonton due to lack of options and enjoyment.

I would like to see it as vibrant as Madison with our own flavor of focusing on the arts and history. I would like to see water features and trees etc to make it more walkable in future. Create space for shaded outdoor dining.

Keep the historic elements. Preserve the buildings and homes

A town where people want to come to for shopping for specialty cloths (men & women), antiques, artwork, other specialty stores and good quality restaurants. A place where a number of diverse events are held that appeal to wide audience throughout the year. A downtown that is line with trees and other greenery and buildings are maintained. Sidewalks that are good quality and maintained.

Art galleries, restaurants, and other retail shops that encourage shopping and spending time downtown. Special events, too.

Would be nice if we could look and behave more like Madison.

Expand downtown with more businesses and also with places where kids can hang out end up being taken care of where you don't have to worry about them like a youth center where they can also get help with just about anything they need like homework or someone to talk to and whether they can get some to eat a good healthy meal and we also parents can go to for advice and help because I think the kids are being forgotten in this town they also need mentoring

A thriving downtown that is quaint and charming where people will have a variety of shops to shop at.

I would like to see an Eatonton that is thriving with local businesses and restaurants, I think using Madison as an inspiration.

A safe and thriving downtown area with budget-friendly places for families to gather. I would love to have a place where my family of 4 could go spend the evening. Designed to be safe and entertaining for children and adults alike. Perhaps a bowling alley? Skating rink?

Thriving with lots of restaurants, shopping, and places for kids and adults to hang out like a nice park area. Lots of community events for all ages. More business involvement, give people traveling through a reason to bypass 441 to see our small town.

More family places to go. Playground, kids event family place. Instead of having to go an hour away.

More local artist, bring the history of Eatonton.. more pet friendly events n places to eat.

Lots of various businesses downtown, more sit down restaurants. More variety of restaurants.

More businesses in downtown especially restaurants and bars. Walkability is great but there isn't much to walk around to.

Need to do something about the abandoned buildings near the old elementary school and some of the shopping centers look unloved and need some upkeep.

A stable environment that would KEEP businesses in the city and county. It seems that some last maybe 6-12 months and go out of business lately. More public parking so visitors can access these businesses easily.

Green space, shops, restaurants and adequate parking.

All storefronts occupied. Restaurants.

Cleaned up buildings. Make some of the businesses. CLEAN UP

A place people want to go downtown and talk about it. Welcoming community vibe. An area with diversity in the type of shops and restaurants that attracts diverse local visitors, residents, and tourists. Things to do - consider an open lawn where kids can play, adults walk or relax. Restaurant with outdoor, open casual along with upscale for special occasions.

More businesses

Lots of restaurants, shops, concerts and festivals.

More retail shops that stay. More nice restaurants. Places for kids to play. Playground storms

Quality shopping . More like Madison . Enough tobacco and ecigareete places. Boutiques, dining and bar options. QUALITY is the key , not run down looking buildings

I would like to see the business buildings full with an array of different types and cultural stores and merchandise. I also saw a paws parade where animals dressed up and paraded down main street. Something like this might be fun and different from many other towns.

Need family places where you can play games or bowl. A true sit down restaurant for eating. The shopping plaza by CVS will be the perfect place for a bowling alley or event place.

More variety of restaurants. Reopen the old theater. More shopping options: antique store, men's clothing.

Breakfast restaurant, 4-5 more businesses (ice cream or yogurt, music bar

Clean. Well maintained buildings and sidewalks. More options for shopping. Businesses that will attract younger customers and visitors.

If we had at least one really good place to eat ai think more people would come downtown and stop thinking Milledgeville/ Madison first. Maybe also try to get some of the retail shops to extend their hours on at least Thursday thru Sat. This may prompt people to stay longer when coming to eat at said establishment. I know that's hard to construct. I think we are moving in a good direction

What happened to the hotel that was coming to the old jail? A restaurant that's like the brick in mville, boutiques like downtown mville, Madison & Athens. Open up the old theater for dollar movies. If that's not poss, open it up to plays or something every wkend. What ab a pottery painting shop like In Duluth? A corks & canvas shop open daily not just an event? Doesn't the gun store have a shooting range like franklins in Athens? Theres just nothing you can do do here.

No vape shops ruining the aesthetic and charm of downtown. No neon lights. Restaurants that are consistently goiod with food and service. More people enjoying all of the events!

Enough small businesses to warrant strolling in and out,downtown,with a better variety of stores to shop from.

I would like to think on this question and send it later. It's super important and not easy for a lifelong resident to respond to as I see so many different things but would also love to preserve the integrity of our small town which has been what attracted people to begin with...too many changes too fast for many residents!

I would love to see an antique store & a home decor store in downtown.

Establishing a vibrant downtown vibe. More restaurants and cafes, outdoor street seating, etc. Hotel lodging and B&B is absolutely a necessity to grow our downtown. Hopefully there will be an abundance of trees and flowers throughout the courthouse square and on the streets heading out of downtown. All

the buildings in and around the courthouse should be outlined with white lights. Let's make all this happen!!

Lots of different businesses with reasonable prices and hours that people can actually go to. What little we have has the worst hours unless you are retired. There are so many thriving downtown areas in our state, I think we should look into how they function and see if it could work here.

Restaurants and traffic management Better use of the courthouse space

More restaurants and shops

I envision the downtown area having a first Friday and being able to enjoy family friendly activities.

I would like to have a nice sit down restaurant where you can have a good salad, a steak, or fish. Not just fast food and bar food.

business that STAY in business and don't close up in less than a year. a variety of businesses available. more restaurants. people living above the businesses (where appropriate). car repair/tire shops/detailing shops that are well maintained and pleasing to look at. a pocket park. picnic tables with shelter.

A place where others go to hang out have a drink. I have dinner, visit and have entertainment for all social economic backgrounds.

More businesses to bring people! Variety of businesses and code to protect city square.

Many small variety shops and 3-5 really good restaurants/sports bars.

More activities to do with children and animals

Variety of downtown businesses thriving!

I hope it keeps its small town feel. I like the historic building downtown even though a few need some restoration work.

Work, live downtown buildings. More events at the plaza arts center. Events at local library. Unique businesses representing all demographics. Would love for there to be an "upscale" locally owned dining experience. Pet friendly businesses and "pet poop " disposal stations. Economical housing for City and County employees.

MORE ACTUAL FARMER MARKETS MORE RESTAURANTS, We love Mexican food but how many dang Mexican restaurants do we need?!? We need maybe a Pizzeria or a mom and pop sandwich shop.

A diverse nightlife like downtown Milledgeville, more genre variety of live music, be more queer friendly

More restaurants/bars with live entertainment. More stores with a good variety of products.

An active downtown.

More store variations, more lighting especially at Christmas on N. Jefferson Ave, speed bumps on N. Jefferson Ave to slow down the speeders in the area

Attract businesses that gives me a reason to visit downtown. There's nothing in downtown but a bunch of junk shops. Open more quality restaurants. We don't need vape or coffee shops.

More business variety including better restaurants and shopping.

Variety of stores of the kind people want to solicit repeatedly. Restaurants with good food, not the current decent food.

More single family homes, not 8A. Finish the Hotel renovation and use the Plaza to bring in talent to attract tourists.

More vibrant, people walking around. Visit Monticello, Jackson and other small downtowns and they are much more active. Eatonton feels empty unless there is an event taking place.

A couple more restaurants that's aren't Sysco food truck supplied. Would love an authentic Italian restaurant. Making the signage more appealing on the stores. Having a HOA if you will for all businesses. Removing the smoke shop. Getting more businesses in all the vacant buildings. Would love to see a yoga or barre or cycling studio.

Restaurants, activity centers, social events, seasonal events, art festival(s). Less focus on loud music and drinking, more family-oriented fun.

Retail businesses - shoe, clothing, variety, hair supply, department stores; not just restaurants and service businesses. Maxway and Nina's are sorely missed!

I would love a thriving downtown with shops, restaurants, bars, spas, coffee shops, artist markets, open green space with events and concerts, etc that would be a destination where people can spend time and enjoy themselves. Decorating downtown for the holidays is a nice feature, but the businesses need to be open later and feel welcoming to spend time. I feel downtown Eatonton is a beautiful historic area and an excellent place for thriving businesses open day and night.

I'd love to see more events that bring surrounding counties to us. Perhaps a much bigger parade because we reach out to businesses surrounding us. I'd love to see more things that our kids can do- from the young ones to the older. I'd love more abilities to volunteer for our community- perhaps Christmas caroling at nursing homes, a monthly visit to the nursing home residents who don't get visitors often, the ability to do a town clean up together. I'd love more opportunities to serve our community

Eatonton does a great job with family friendly activities, but they don't always fit our schedule. I would like to see more family-friendly business options downtown. Ice cream or candy shops, cheerful restaurants that don't feel like bars, and more green spaces, like playgrounds, dog parks and benches would make downtown more welcoming for families and pets. With added tourist accommodations like hotels or B&Bs, downtown could become a great destination for both families and visitors.

Would like it be a place where the buildings aren't vacant and have thriving businesses. Opening the movie theater would help a lot due to movies shutting down in Milledgeville and a great family activity. I always think of Monticello and how they have a great downtown with different stores, places to eat and great coffee. I would love to see Eatonton be a place people go for the same reason but there just isn't a lot offered right now.

Ten years from now, my ideal downtown is vibrant, walkable, and full of life—day and night. I picture a downtown where local businesses thrive, not just big chains. Sidewalk cafés, coffee shops, bakeries, boutiques, and art spaces create a place people want to linger, not just pass through. Streets are welcoming with trees, lighting, benches, and public art, making it safe and enjoyable for all ages.

Central market place with green space, parks and walking/biking trail

### **Miscellaneous Survey Comments:**

Eatonton used to have many stores where it would support businesses, let's bring it back to life!

Can't wait to see something go on the theater, give more marketing to the performing arts center, places to eat that are clean and open, call a place in Florida called Detwiler's and invite them to buy the old grocery store next to CVS. Make Eatonton stand out more

I love living in Eatonton !

Monticello has grown so much! And we seem to go backwards. Not sure why but it is sad.

You are doing an amazing job! Much better than the guy before.

During the Dairy Festival, the vendor options this year seemed weak. not quality crafts (except for the wood carver). Most was trinket type items. Can you offer more custom crafters? Also, we came at noon, the ice cream was gone. It should last the same hours as the festival. I understand the cost to such a suggestion, but second servings should not be given out when others arrive later to enjoy the event as well. And, slow down your Christmas parade. It was very rushed the last 2 years.

It would be great if there were more places offering nightlife for our younger adults. Those under 21 and above 18.

All of Putnam needs more green parks and sidewalks. Bring families in with parks and walking/biking trails

Eatonton could be a cute town if it were cleaned up. There are so many run down and abandoned businesses that hurt the community.



Our elected officials do not appear to care about the downtown area. All you have to do is look at it and it's obvious. I bet if there was an area around Lake Oconee that looked like downtown does now there would be a huge financial investment in making it more appealing. If downtown had 1/4 of the effort to improve it that our officials put into the lake area you would see some changes.

Eatonton really needs a park for the kids

You guys are doing a great job. This is my wife's hometown and we took this survey together. We would like to come back to eatonton one day and we love seeing y'all work to bring eyes to downtown and the non-lake side of Eatonton. We are excited for the future of the town.

Also WALMART - they SEVERELY need new parking lot paint lines done for their entry/exit lanes, the city needs to make them do that because entering leftside into the Walmart, people can't see their lane. All over the parking lot really. Sorry if y'all don't deal with that, but it's bad. I think a tasteful digital billboard to advertise local events on E Sumter st nearby the right turn onto s Jefferson would advertise events well to folks driving in from towards Greensboro. ADVERTISE!!

Living in the plaza historic district i see unkempt properties and a lack of ower pride. The residents paid for the snowflakes on the light poles on the residential parts of N Madison Avenue. The "city" removed the lights from Church St to Carriage Ave. and placed them elsewhere in the city. PLEASE replace our Christmas snowflakes.

Keep up the great work. I am missing things on FB which is my main way of seeing what is going on in the events section. I hear about things too late.

Sylvia's and the Writer's Museum are the biggest draw.

Downtown looks tacky and dated and due for a facelift.

Lauren is doing very good job but I know she is fighting the ones over her tooth and nail because they could care less about Eatonton.

I think it's beautiful and there's always something going on.

No

No one hangs out there because there is limited parking and there are BETTER options all over the city/county. You need to build the quaint atmosphere, people want to drive through a downtown area & SEE events happening, & stop or tell friends. They need to see people talking, shopping, & kids having an area to play. It needs to be active. It has to be pretty-or charming at least! Right now it's not very active except occasionally. Work to build spaces people want to linger in, have events at.

Get rid of the empty falling down empty structures, rotten houses, broken streets, bad sidewalks.

Give me a call would enjoy sharing my expertise. George Kelecheck 770-597-4878  
Geocheck57@gmail.com

We appreciate Lauren and her board! They've done a LOT!!!

I really felt we were moving in the right direction when the Rabbit Hole opened and we had the ax throwing with hopes of a beer garden.... But no one knew it was there.

I wish the empty storefronts had paper in the windows that look like a building (have seen these in Atlanta). It makes downtown seem less bare and empty! Whoever is using the downtown building as a storage unit needs to go!

No

Appreciate all the efforts, keep trying and encourage businesses to come downtown

No

Thank you for all you do!!

I love my town but when Horton Homes and Georgia Power closed, that is when the businesses in town started to dwindle away. We need jobs for our local people to have money to spend. We have too many low income housing in the city and not enough housing for those who work and are willing to spend money.

No

I love taking visitors to see the history.

I live at the lake but visit Eatonton to support local businesses as often as possible, consistent hours of operation would be a plus It's a great small town and has definitely elevated its game in the last couple of years

Have owners Clean out old buildings or tear down have empty businesses Ren out buildings at a decent rate so their build won't sit empty example the old grocery store next to CVS it hasn't had anyone in there in decades

It has improved. I can see the effort. Thank you.

You're doing a great job! I'm sad businesses are having a hard time staying.

I would like to see a playground for littles

Not at the moment

Make it easier and more cost effective for someone to bring an event to the city/county. The fees are high tod do it now. And then the unknow fees that are attached to an avent regarding traffic control,garbage cleanup etc.Everything has a big price tag in order to host an event that supports the downtown. These fees need removed or at least reduced. Some of the vendor fees can take all or most profitability for the vendor just to rent a spot.That is why we quit coming as vendors.

Heading in the right direction

Flower boxes were not changed like requested some horrible businesses downtown that make town look uncared fore

Currently driving into Main Street or Downtown is not attractive. It would be great to prioritize the aesthetics of the entrances to be more appealing and open more diverse shops.

Tear down old deserted buildings. Open the Pex. Need some nice restaurants in town.

I enjoy coming to downtown and walking threw the many festivals and markets. I have had great experiences with the few stores I have patronize.

Add some color to Christmas decorations. Snowflakes don't really say "Christmas in Eatonton". Plus, everything is white. That's not a white Christmas, it's just boring. Christmas trees, bells, Santa ( I know we can't bring back the angels without causing a meltdown) that we used to see. Also, many events are

scheduled midday. Many of us would attend, but we work, even on Saturdays. Maybe schedule more events for after 4 or 5.

Please try to make something happen with the old Piggly Wiggly building.

Main Street does a very good job with all of the events they put on! Very diversified and always very well planned! Great job!

Nothing other than I love this little town...but mostly the people in it!

There should be an effort to include business and property owners on every board advisory committee that is working to improve our downtown, as well as Putnam County residents. To limit input to just city residents limits creative participation of growing our downtown community.

Too many organizations and not enough leadership

I like how Eatonton keeps you informed about the craft fair. They are friendly and easy to work with.