

We visited with two 6th grade math/science classes at Roland Grise Middle School (approximately 60 11- and 12-year old citizens). We've organized their feedback, unedited, under the plan's seven themes.

What makes a city a good place to live?

Nurturing our Community

Trees and vegetation
Farms for locally-grown food
Clean water
Sewage system
Beach
Low pollution

Opportunity and Prosperity

Education
Good schools
Source of income
Lots of jobs
Good economy
Hospitals
Good sources of revenue
Imports and exports

Getting Around

Less traffic
Safe roads
Good roads
Paved roads
More international flights
Lots of highways
Sidewalks
Transportation
Airports
Buses
Trains

Creating a Place for Everyone

Not overcrowded
Police and Fire protection
Security
Events
Good food
Good restaurants
Places to visit
Wireless access
Fun attractions
Attractions
Things to do

Peace, no violence
Safety
Keep citizens happy
Professional sports teams
College
Lots of apartments and homes
Houses
Recreation areas
Lots of accessible resources, such as grocery stores
Shopping choices

Regional Collaboration

Strong leaders
Good planners
Connected to other cities

Changing Places, Revitalized Spaces

Tall buildings with lots of windows

Unique Places, Captivating Spaces

Cool buildings
Parks
Interesting natural landmarks
Places people like to visit
Something unique
Location

What do you like best about Wilmington?

Nurturing our Community

Beach
Weather
River
Fishing
Geographic location
Barrier islands
Urban but still have trees and wildlife

Old buildings
Greenfield Lake
Riverwalk
Battleship
Diversity of architecture

Opportunity and Prosperity

Lots of schools
Lots of businesses around beaches
Local, non-chain businesses

Getting Around

Nothing is too far away

Creating a Place for Everyone

History
College
Food
Ice cream
Sports teams/sports clubs
Not violent
Fun attractions
Entertainment like Jungle Rapids
Competitive events
Azalea Festival
River Fest
Lots of festivals
Different cultures
Nice parks
Malls and movie theaters
Trask Coliseum
Can make connections – small town feeling
Family town

Regional Collaboration

Changing Places, Revitalized Spaces

Downtown
Historic areas

Unique Places, Captivating Spaces

What is something that would make Wilmington an even better place to live?

Nurturing our Community

Fewer people, more land area
Fewer pine trees
More natural areas
Less tree cutting
Parks with natural wildlife areas

Opportunity and Prosperity

Integrative systems to make schools better
Affordable healthcare

Getting Around

Cars that can fly over traffic
More sidewalks
More places to ride bikes on sidewalks
Traffic signals for bikes
Less traffic

Creating a Place for Everyone

Authentic churro shop
Amusement parks
More things to do besides the beach
Something like the statue of liberty
Famous people and landmarks
Pro sports teams
Homeless refuge

Better school lunches
More parks
Britts donuts
Indoor trampoline park
Indoor surfing
Denny's
Popeye's chicken restaurant
7-11 Convenience store
Half-underwater Ferris wheel
Fair that stays year-round
Hockey team
Lake – freshwater recreation opportunities
Underwater hotel
Zoo

Regional Collaboration

Changing Places, Revitalized Spaces

More modern buildings
Skyscrapers
Fix up downtown
Absence of a visible sewer system

Unique Places, Captivating Spaces

More buildings and skyscrapers to create a more interesting skyline

What kind of career do you think you'll have 25 years from now?

Doctor
Pharmacist
Engineer
Geologist
Small business owner
Veterinarian
Economist
President
Something important in the judicial branch
Lawyer
Professional basketball player
Scientist
Professor

Professional athlete
Architect
Actor
Graphic designer creating video games
Wildlife photographer
Neuro-radiologist
Marine animals
Derma-pathologist
Scientist/researcher
Chef
Finding a cure for cancer
Computer programmer

Do you think you'll live in Wilmington 25 years from now? Why or why not?

Most students surveyed said they would probably not or definitely not be living in Wilmington 25 years from now. Two said they probably would be living in Wilmington 25 years from now.

Among those who said “no”:

Would move away to be nearer to family
Looking for a different environment/geography (mountains)
Want to move to Raleigh
Want to see the world
Would go where there are better job offers
Want to move to Tampa
Want to travel for work
Want to be closer to home state
Want to live somewhere with pro sports teams and a beach
Want to live in a big city
Want to live somewhere with more people
Education system is not good enough
Free healthcare in England
Want to see the world

Among those who said “maybe”:

Wilmington is a good place to be a kid
Might move back when it's time to have kids
Might have a summer/beach house here
May come back here to retire, but this is not a good place to build a career
Will probably build a career in a bigger city, but may retire here
May come back when I have kids so they can see where I grew up

Among those who said “yes”:

Really like my neighborhood and the people
It's a small town with a beach