

2024 Village of Volente Community Survey

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Open-Ended
Comments

Submitted to the Village of Volente, TX

by:

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Contents

Question 16: <i>“What do you value most about Volente?”</i>	1
Question 17: <i>“What are you most concerned about regarding Volente’s future?”</i>	4
Question 18: <i>“What do you want Volente to look like in 10 years?”</i>	7
Question 19: <i>“Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?”</i>	10

Q16. What do you value most about Volente?

- 1. Rural setting. 2. Proximity to urban conveniences. 3. Low density. 4. Good neighbors. 5. Small town community atmosphere. 6. Lakeside access. 7. Privacy.
- A lot of nature and minimal government.
- A mostly quiet, rural environment.
- Beautiful semi-rural environment relatively close to Austin.
- Beauty
- beauty & accessibility to Lake Travis
- beauty & quiet
- Being able to feel like I am out in the middle of nowhere but not be too far away from things. Love the ability to drive a golf cart to the lake, to a restaurant, to a friends house.
- Being close to nature: Lake, trees, trails, preserves. A quiet community but is close to all the things you need.
- clean, safe, good roads, village staff, low density
- close to Austin but far from Austin business
- community/family focused/recreation
- COUNTRY SETTING, SPACE AND PRIVACY, NATURAL BEAUTY
- fire dept
- Freedom
- friendly neighbors
- Friendly neighbors, slow paced and quiet.
- Friendly, quiet and family orientated.
- Friendly. quiet neighborhood
- Great place to live
- Healthy, natural environment that provides privacy
- hills, natural setting, more land for homes
- HOMETOWN, FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS, DIVERSITY, FRIENDS
- I get to live "In Austin" but not feel like I'm in a giant city. I love our lake, I tend to like our community (Here everyone knows your name). I also love Mayor Tom - I'm so glad we finally have some leadership that is not polarizing or extreme. Moderate intelligent management of this community is key!
- I value Volente for its small town & neighbor friendly atmosphere. Short Terms rentals are tearing apart this peaceful community fabric. There is nothing good about these turnstile hotels operating in the village. They are FOR PROFIT businesses operating on residential zoned properties. The party guests have complete disregard and no courtesy for the neighbors and neighborhoods around them. Often times, the STR business owners do not even live in the village, so they could care less how their renters act or the havoc they cause. They're only interested in cramming in as many rentals as possible and counting their profits. As for the partiers They come. They party. They trash the place and they leave. STR's should be abolished immediately. No question about it.
- independent and self sufficient, nature
- IT HAS A REMOTE, RURAL FEEL, BUT CLOSE TO CITY, WORK AND BUSINESSES
- It's laid back atmosphere.
- lake & rural lifestyle
- lake access

- lake community, property appreciation
- Landscape and neighbors
- large residential lot sizes and numerous high value homes in a semi-rural suburban area and many with views of lake and/or hill county
- LIVING ON LAKE TRAVIS
- living on the lake, enjoying restaurants & bars
- Low density housing.
- LOW DENSITY HOUSING-RURAL
- Low density population.
- natural beauty & peaceful
- Nature
- Open country I like to hunt.
- open space, rural setting
- Peace and quiet, neighbors, local businesses
- peaceful community
- People. Peacefulness
- Privacy
- private & quiet
- Quaint community just on the outskirts of town.
- Quiet
- Quiet
- quiet & feels safe
- quiet & small
- quiet & peaceful living
- Quiet and friendly.
- QUIET AND RELAXING
- Quiet and remote.
- Quiet and safe
- Quiet and safe
- Quiet lakeside community
- Quiet neighborhood
- quiet place to raise a family
- Quiet upscale residential neighborhood on the water
- quiet, dark, calm people, nature
- quiet, family centered, safe
- quiet, hidden beauty, hidden oasis, how density
- quiet, slow pace, lakeside community feel
- quietness of neighbors, small town vibe
- quietness, beautiful surroundings
- residential community with small town feel. Minimal commercial activity
- rural family community, knowing your neighbor, love the lake
- rural feel
- Rural setting.
- Rural, quiet natural beauty
- safe rural community
- Safe, quiet, beautiful lakeside community away from the City.

- safety rural quiet
- safety & small town feel
- seclusion, beauty
- semi-rural community- safe. I drive to Austin
- sense of community
- small town
- small town & family feel
- Small town environment; people mind their own business.
- Small town feel, beauty, neighborhoods
- Small town feel.
- SMALL TOWN FEEL-COMRADERIE-VOLUNTEERISM
- Small town, quiet atmosphere.
- Space, view, hills and citizens
- The ability to use my property freely without government regulation.
- The community.
- The environment.
- The large lots, SF homes, peaceful lifestyle
- The people, natural beauty and the lake.
- The privacy
- The privacy, quiet, and space the village affords.
- The quiet friendliness of long term neighbors
- The small town feel and how friendly residents and visitors are.
- The views
- the way it was before incorporation
- topography, green space
- used to be lake living
- VIEWS
- Village vibe with people visiting from around Texas to enjoy a quick getaway.

Q17. What are you most concerned about regarding Volente's future?

- 1. Balancing growth without over-regulation. 2. Developing a masterplan for the community
- 1. Exploitive development. 2. Disorderly visitors. 3. Light pollution. 4. Overcrowded lake facilities. 5. Unsafe vessel operators. 6. Additional marina development.
- Becoming commercialized.
- Being over regulated by the city council by policies designed to benefit council members in power.
- Being surrounded by dense housing.
- Commercial construction destroying nature.
- commercial development
- COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, SHORT TERM RENTAL
- commercial tourism promotion
- Concerned with becoming a tourist destination.
- controlled commercial development & multi residential development
- Development
- Development and traffic/noise.
- Development of businesses, STR and multi-family residential areas
- development that is not regulated
- Dramatic citizens stirring up unnecessary issues causing strain on village staff.
- Economic commercial development and noise.
- Ending up like Lakeway.
- Enforcement regularity
- excessive dangerous speeding cars on FM2769/and or Lime Creek Rd
- Fire danger from the inaccessible BCCP acreage
- getting congested and trashy
- Growth and traffic.
- GROWTH FOCUSED AND MANAGED TO ASSURE MAINTAINING ABOVE
- high density and short term rentals
- HIGH PERFORMANCE CARS AND MOTORCYCLES SPEEDING THE STREETS, NEED MORE CODE ENFORCEMENT RADAR AND TICKETS
- High speeders on the roads.
- Higher taxes with more regulation but worse service. In other words, bigger government.
- homes looking trashy
- increase in non-residents and growth in industrial/commercial activities.
- Increasing unsafe drivers. Noise pollution.
- Influx of STR and multi-family
- infrastructure
- Intervening too much to where it no longer feels like a small town but a small city.
- lack of code enforcement
- Lack of community spirit or awareness of city government.
- lack of overall regard to condition of some property
- Lack of walkability and public spaces
- lake level- lack of leash law- lack of regulations being enforced-trash
- Lake Travis water level and water in Aquifer
- lake water level
- Lake water levels and commercial/multi-family development.

- Long term living in travel trailers/RV's without licensed services (septic, electric, etc.)
- losing open space & rural setting
- More people coming in and taking away resources with limited water supply, and not caring about the beauty of our surroundings.
- multi family housing- increase in commercial business and inability to enforce our ordinances.
- Multi-family growth
- multi-housing complex
- no STR and no traffic bumps
- over regulation, loss of small town & neighbor-to-neighbor feel
- Overregulation
- overregulation and increased property taxes
- party barge rental and traffic. Don't want the Party Barge Capital of TX
- political vendetta's - govern body with personal agenda
- POOR MANAGEMENT OF CODES ENFORCEMENT
- Potential addition of new developments.
- prefer not to become commercialized or grow
- rapid commercial development
- regulation around SRT is important. It should be allowed but with regulation & structure
- residents wanting it to be like Liberty
- Short term rental and commercial growth
- short term rentals
- short term rentals
- short term rentals & tourism
- short term rentals and noise pollution
- Short term rentals and tourist development
- short term rentals control/minimization
- short term rentals, people have zero regard for others b/c they are transient and on party holidays
- significant concerns about short-term rentals which threaten all these values
- speeding on 2789 & Lime Creek Rd
- speeding on Lime Creek- very dangerous
- Speedy traffic especially around Volente Beach where there are tons of visitors walking around. Maybe adding speed bumps on FM2769 as the street turns to Lime Creek would help the speeders in that area.
- STR'S
- STR'S
- STR's
- that it became unincorporated
- the big government
- the bridge should be built in case of flooding- on the lowest point on FM 2769
- The inability to govern with reason and see past the animosity that plagues this community.
- The lack of a cohesive and forward thinking master plan.
- The most immediate as well as long term issue facing Volente is short term rentals. They are running wild with little or no regulations / enforcement. They are evil viruses with not place in a small town community such as Volente.
- THE NUMBER OF DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS WILL INCREASE
- The over reach of government.

- the over-reach of gov't
- The push by a few to become a tourist destination
- To us it seems like the goal of the village is to stand still and prevent any change. The village seems like it only exists to restrict, but not provide any real services. There should be water and wastewater services, security, community amenities, and a more seamless development process. It is difficult and expensive to develop in Volente. Several of the problem properties (i.e. properties with unsafe structures, overgrowth, etc.) face the same issues preventing redevelopment despite the owners' desires to clean up and add community assets/amenities. Building regulation is important and should be maintained, but Volente's current building code is overly restrictive, more so than any jurisdiction I have seen as an architectural designer, and requires many variance applications. The city engineer is very helpful, but each meeting is \$500. Each variance application is thousands, plus requires thousands in architectural and engineering expenses to *maybe* be able to build on your property. Basically it's a huge expense and gamble. It would be better to have a more realistic building code to begin with, then an easier way to reach agreed upon ways to address variance issues without so much up front costs. There are several commercial properties that could be assets to the community if it were easier to work with the village to redevelop. My experience is with commercial, but I believe residential faces the same overly restrictive issues.
- Too many regulations and ordinances. Important one covered by Travis County.
- Too many STR's
- too much growth
- too much growth
- Too much local government even though our motto includes "minimal government".
- Too much regulation
- Too much traffic going way too fast.
- Tourist businesses
- Traffic
- Traffic
- traffic & congestion, speed limit & walkability
- traffic & enforcement
- Traffic and regulation
- Traffic on 2769 and Lime Creek Road.
- Transient stewardship due to rental properties.
- UNPROFESSIONAL CITY MANAGEMENT
- VRBO's mid term rentals roads
- water!! annoying bros on boats
- water, lake level
- We need a viable, enforceable short term rental ordinance. We cant always say no, but we MUST ENFORCE our codes and rules! We are inconsistent in our application of rules and regulations. I don't feel protected from people who want to take advantage of being in a remote location and "do what they want" with their property.
- Wildfires and depreciation of home values and water levels in Lake Travis, dropping
- Will turn into Lakeway.

Q18. What do you want Volente to look like in 10 years?

- An anti-fragile cohesive community that comes together in times of need, supports local business, uses the tax dollars to clean the sides of the roadways to improve our village instead of being worried about how much interest our bank account is accumulating.
- A beautiful place for residents and tourist to enjoy.
- A CLEAN, FRIENDLY PLACE TO LIVE WITHOUT LOUD MOTORCYCLES
- A cleaned-up version of what Volente is today.
- a little boardwalk area with local shops restaurants, and more trails
- A neighborhood of family homes, not a tourist destination.
- A peaceful, family oriented, harmonious and scenic village with minimal government.
- A quiet friendly community with more community centric amenities.
- A sleepy village
- a walkable lake community with amenities nearby
- as is now but without short term rentals and fewer party barges
- As it is now
- As it is today, without the racing on Lime Creek.
- as it was before Air BnB and short term rentals
- back to basics-unincorporated
- clean & open
- closer resources such as food & gas
- CONTINUE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD, HELPING PEOPLE, ENJOYING THE LAKE
- DO NOT WANT IT TO EVOLVE TO A TOURIST TRAP DESTINATION
- Exactly as it looks now
- exactly the same
- full lake
- grocery stores
- HIGH END RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY WITHOUT MULTI-FAMILY AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- I want to see economic growth and development that will bring in business and tourism and raise property values.
- I would hope that Volente could abolish or regulate STR's the to the point where the adjacent neighbors can peacefully enjoy their property because when people purchase property in Volente, they expect to live next to fellow family's not turnstile, high-turn over hotels full of rowdy, drunk, partiers.
- I would like a pleasant, rural and quiet space for retirees and families.
- I would like the council to be more involved with it's citizens.
- I would like to see a place for the community to gather and share ideas and stories. Like a coffee shop or a grocery store with a coffee shop and/or cafe. It could have a small library where books could be donated, etc. Sounds like VJ's reimaged.
- Improved infrastructure and a lake with more water.
- Increased retail and restaurant choices. More parks. Sidewalks on major roads to allow people to walk safely
- keep open space and rural setting
- Lack of enforcement has caused some areas to become trashy
- larger but with solitude and respect for the community

- SAME BUT WELL MAINTAINED
- Same with less construction
- Same, but different, better, not bigger, protect lake - Need environmental awareness
- Same, maybe a small store
- same, only cleaner
- similar and cleaner with less trash on lots
- Similar in layout (1 house per acre, local watering hole), but with more consistency in enforcement
- Similar to now
- similar to today but with walking trails, a cafe & store
- Similar to what it is today
- small businesses, restaurants, town center
- small time & family feel
- small town environment
- small town w/ improved amenities & keep safe
- Small town with a very walkable center with grocery store and cafes. Side walks, cycling lanes , and public hiking trails to enjoy the beautiful nature. Easy access to public transport from within the village.
- small, no commercial, large lots
- spruced up, getting rid of abandoned buildings
- suburban/rural (close to same)
- The downtown area could be developed with more community and tourist amenities and public parking. The Village can be developed smartly so that residential and commercial can exist together, and the commercial serves as a benefit and not a burden.
- The redevelopment of whatever degree of existing substandard housing - that is much older and in poor condition.
- The same kind of community less the speeders on LCR
- they way this is now, without STR
- Trails, nature
- Very limited business expansion, if any at all. Single family residential. Current property owners paid a premium for their investment and did so to escape urban congestion.
- very similar to today!
- We need to preserve what we currently have, a dark sky, greenery, and a small town feel.
- wish it could go back to what it was
- Would like some down sizing options in the Village. Nothing is available now.
- would love a pizza oven/wine shop/convenience store that is small and locally owned
- Would love a strip of small village shops where locals and visitors can access a convenience store and local small shops.

Q19. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?

- 6 mo. minimum rental requirements would be my preference
- Abolish Short Term Rental businesses.
- APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS MADE BY LARGE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS
- As a problem property owner, I just want to reiterate that we would love an easier way to work with the community on improvements.
- bar mean people and Nextdoor
- clean up delapidated buildings, remove junk (make residents)
- Commercial companies driving too fast on neighborhood roads
- do not allow any undeveloped lots to be improved with mobile homes or modular homes-exempting those "grand-fathered" in
- Do something to stop the road racing. It is deteriorating the quality of life.
- DO SOMETHING WITH VJ'S-ACROSS FROM FIREHOUSE-NEEDS DEMO
- Fine owners who do not follow the leash law.
- Foster a more cohesive community.
- get rid of the village
- get rid of the village
- get rid of the village
- Hold the line on development. It is not wanted or needed. Existing infrastructure is barely adequate. Expansion costs born by current residents would only benefit future residents.
- I definitely feel the next priority in this village is adding a post office and adding more security. Yes, I would pay higher taxes for these services.
- I like the new arrows on curves.
- I would like the city ordinances to be reviewed and updated within the next 3 years.
- it is hard to get in and out of the area, it is charming but we can't stop growth, we must control it
- keep quaint & quiet
- Lime Creek road needs to be addressed with speed bumps
- need bike paths for 2769 & Lime Creek Rd
- more emphasis on speed control and water conservation
- most of Volente well maintained, need to enforce those properties in disrepair
- Nextdoor is not an accurate view of the community sentiments.
- No growth and no tourism listen to the residents.
- Please be fair when applying village policies.
- Please establish nature where water treatment construction has removed trees and placed rocks and concrete structure.
- Question 13 needed more options: KEEP Taxes the same but actually utilize the funds to improve and enforce. We need to stop being afraid to spend the money and come together to improve our community. Why are we cutting ourselves short? Why aren't we taking care of our environment and road ways. Why don't we have a safe place for our children and grandchildren to play? Why aren't WE HIREING EXPERTS TO HELP?
- set up MVD district- to size of neighborhood
- SHARE OUR TOWN WITH OTHERS-BE FRIENDLY AND KIND
- SOMEHOW REGULATE THE CARS AND MOTORCYCLES FROM RACING THE STREETS-NOISE ORDINANCES AND ACTUALLY ENFORCE THEM
- stop short term rentals, we have been accosted by drunken renters and noise pollution

- STR's are not a problem
- The lake says, It better rain heavily in the Hill country.
- The ordinances we have should be enforced without citizen involvement. Why is the City Council so complacent and requiring residents to do their jobs?
- the residents need to clean up their properties too much trash, junk etc. degrades the value for all
- The Village is hindering retirees goal to retire here.
- village sovereign and ordinances are no in sync with community needs. Should be simple & easy to execute
- village store esp.: as the population grows
- VOLENTE IS RUN LIKE A GLORIFIED HOA WITH A LOT OF UNTRAINED, WELL MEANING FOLKS MAKING DECISIONS
- We are a very small village and our government and regulations should be just like that -- very small.
- We must control STR's.
- We need to resolve the issue on LCR. We are in favor of speed cushions which allow emergency vehicle but would deter speeders
- whenever the lake flooding happens every few years, the lowest portion of FM 2769 used to be flooded so all the people on Volente detour more than 12 miles on a unsafe road
- where are the questions about the importance of regulating reckless driving and excessive nose on 2769 and Lime Creek?
- why is Volente beach parking lot allowed to have such a trash area? it has been like that for yrs., why are my neighbors allowed to use their vacant lot as a trash dump?
- why wasn't unincorporated on this survey?
- will have to reconsider building in Volente if something is not done to eliminate short term rental due to safety concerns