

EVL Community Vision and Long Range Planning Survey

Summary of Input from 84 Community Members

Our Community Now:

I. What makes Dixon/Embudo a good place to live?

1. Small, quiet, diverse, nurturing, safe, and peaceful rural community; (mentioned many times)
2. Wonderful people (mentioned many times); Strong connections and neighbors;
3. Local farming;
4. It's a beautiful valley;
5. It's fun!
6. Fresh air, water, mountains, good climate, and the views;
7. The land, the people, the river, and the roots;
8. "My family has lived in Dixon for over 100 years. We can plant and grow our own food. The valley is sheltered from strong winds. And it's beautiful and green."
9. The co-op market, the school, the clinic, and the library (mentioned multiple times);
10. "There is a nice mix of wonderful and interesting people creating true community. And people care for each other."
11. Dixon has a lot of resources like KLDK, the library, acequias, and Coop market;
12. Community spirit and cooperation;
13. The library and Coop rock!
14. The atmosphere, the trees, the rivers, the apples, and wildlife, and the people!
15. Community participation;
16. "The beauty of the land is foundational, and this community celebrates with respect for diversity and multiculturalism like the Santa Rosa Fiesta."
17. "It is a small community and everyone seems to know each other. There are so many friendly people. If ever you need help there is someone to count on to help out."
18. "Honesty, our awesome library and radio station. The beautiful night sky with a KLDK radio program playing is perfect!"
19. The people, the low crime rate, the closeness to many events that take place in Española, Taos and Santa Fe.
20. "Dixon is a small town with everything right here – vineyards and down-to-earth people and culture."
21. "The library, coop, elementary school, usually good farming, and a Farmer's market."
22. "It's a beautiful, small community full of wonderful creative people."
23. "The people and the Dixon market, the library, the community players, the small elementary school, the radio station, Zuly's restaurant, and the Town Crier."
24. "It seems to be an idyllic un-incorporated town. It is a community without government. Wow!"
25. "Lots of family-oriented events and activities. And the community attitude seems positive."
26. I enjoy having animals in a country setting;
27. "The people! Dixon is a wonderful mix of races, ages, and socio-economic strata. Most people help their neighbors, volunteer, and support kids."

II. What resources, businesses, and institutions make it possible for you to live here?

1. The school, churches, and family;
2. The clinic for healthcare;
3. The school, the market, Vivac Winery, the library, Zuly's, acequias, and farmers.
4. The brewery;
5. The store, school, farmer's market, and library with printers, scanners, and computers (all mentioned many times);
6. School, library, dentist, clinic, and store;
7. Carnelian Center, library, Coop, Dixon Fire Dept., and DAPS;
8. I very much appreciate the after-school program;
9. "It would be possible to live here without most of the named institutions; however, for me, the acequias, the store, and the library certainly make life here infinitely sweeter and easier. And KLDK is a delightful asset' especially since the airing of Democracy Now!"
10. 'I have my home in Dixon. We are blessed that we can use the acequias (mentioned many times). My children, grandchildren, and myself have all gone to Dixon Elementary and to the church."
11. The post office, local businesses, farmer's market, Farm Friday at the Crawfords, local work, and family.
12. The Embudo Arts Studio Tour.
13. The acequias and farmers share resources for our bees. The Coop market sells our produce and we are able to interact with a various organizations.
14. The WWOOF program (www.woof-usa.org).

III. What do you like best about living here? (many of the responses were repeats from questions #1 and #2 so I did not relist them)

1. Small community, great people, being close to family;
2. Being close to family. We were born and raised here all our lives.
3. The wild greenness, the mountains,
4. I work on my land and love the evening light and the stars.
5. "Here is a small pocket of humanity surrounded and permeated by wildlife; here is a relatively small number of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. It's a very cosmopolitan type of rural living."
6. NM skies and lack of nightlights.
7. Most of my friends still live here so I enjoy seeing them.
8. Everything happens at the right pace.
9. "The overall freedom from the city living – traffic, crowds, etc. The smell and the sight of all the seasons! The river, trees, and scenery. I love Dixon! "
10. The fresh air and access to nature. The magical petroglyphs and geology.
11. My many wonderful friends and their support.
12. The culture, the beauty of this town. I was born and raised here and wouldn't live anywhere else.
13. Agricultural history and the potential for various kinds of agriculture in the future.
14. The community is family.
15. Traveling less than 10 minutes to get to work.

- 16." Most people are trying to get along. It's much better than years ago. I've never seen so many people at the (Santa Rosa) fiesta."
17. The ability to live off the grid and out of the city.
18. The people working in cooperation.
19. Peaceful, beautiful, amazing people; no pressure, no stop lights, and few sirens.

IV. What is the most difficult thing about living here? (a number replies were 'Nothing'!)

1. Driving out for work, college, appointments, and shopping (mentioned many times).
2. "The community as a whole is fractured. There is a whole other half of Dixon that has not been embraced (by the library, store, etc)."
3. Making a living and drugs in the community.
4. Having to send your kids out of the community to go to school after 6th grade.
5. Paying higher prices at the co-op.
6. No resources or entertainment for our young people like a Youth Center.
7. So many strangers moving into Dixon.
8. No gas stations (mentioned many times) or lottery tickets.
9. Short growing season, grasshoppers, and flooding.
10. Goatheads (mentioned twice), mean dogs, and ATVs that cause erosion.
11. Lack of jobs and cost of living.
12. Limited cell phone and internet reception.
13. Price of real estate.
14. Far from emergency medical treatment.
15. Not a thing!
16. Lack of police and law enforcement.
17. The social structure can be marginalized and clique-ish. Too far from "civilization".
18. No recycling center.
19. Keeping our tools from "walking off" and an unfriendly neighbor.

Our Community's Future:

V. Imagine Dixon 10 years from now. Our community and its residents are healthy and successful.

What makes this future village a good place to live? (many people left this answer blank)

1. It is supportive, networked, self-reliant, and independent.
2. Continued cooperation and calm communication.
3. Bike paths for safer exercise.
4. A more diverse population and opportunities for everyone.
5. It's people getting along with each other and a good neighborhood watch program.
6. Feeling of community with just enough resources to make people feel in touch with the rest of the world.
7. It is very progressive with new folks and ideas moving in.
8. It is still close to the earth with lots of fresh air and freedom to participate (or not) in community events.

9. No chain stores like Family Dollar!
10. Seems like the local people are always finding ways to improve the community.
11. People don't have to struggle. It also has amenities like running and biking paths.
12. In ten years, hopefully it will still be similar to what it is now.
13. If we could hire someone to write a charter (middle to high school) we would have dependable education for our young. We also need to keep out the corporations, support for small businesses, and for farming.
14. I see a river that continues to flow and neighbors who continue to cooperate and rent and house and land prices that are affordable for those of us who still have to work for a living.
15. More law enforcement, less crime.
16. More businesses possibilities for people in our community.
17. Helping others so it's not so tough.
18. More reasonably priced products in the co-op.
19. a strong aging support network. Bicycle paths, exercise center including workout machines, a ban on pole lights and sign lighted signs.
20. More resources for kids and public transportation.
21. Self-sustainability! Everyone is a neighbor! The last great community in northern NM!
22. Someone to drive me to the store when neither my husband or I can drive.
23. That local residents stay and don't sell their property. I hope that we are not "discovered" or on the "map." That success has nothing to do with money.
24. Clean water, clean air, and organic food.
25. That Dixon changes to adapt to the way life as a whole is changing.
26. I think if we do the things our grandparents taught us like how to live off the land and keep our traditions alive, everything will be just as good as it is now and maybe even better.
27. Preservation of agricultural traditions and no GMO! No pesticides, clean H2O, and unique offerings.
28. Farming is viable, food is available at the store, and pub, wineries, and restaurants have all made it!
29. Continuing to be so community-minded with so much community spirit.
30. The people, the studio tour, and more community events like the fiestas.
31. Dixon is changing slowly. It will still be s is. We want this.
32. An excellent public elementary school; more growers and produce markets.
33. Food security and abundance.
34. Small school, all cultures working together for common causes like the library and co-op.

VI. What business or institution in this future village would make your life easier? (many left this blank since the question is redundant)

1. Better road to the south without making the road wider.
2. Another restaurant and bakery.
3. Gas station (mentioned many times).
4. Law enforcement.
5. More NMSU extension kinds of events such as water conservation and better seed exchanges. Also more events geared toward the elderly and neighbors working together.
6. Gas station (that didn't sell liquor located on the edge of town) and recycling center.
7. Library, store, school, more businesses, and restaurants (all mentioned many times).

8. Post office (with extended hours), clinic, fire department, co-op store, school, senior center, high speed internet, better cell service.
9. A combination of businesses. Farmers and artists make it amazing but we need a preschool and middle school. A gas station would be a dream! A park too.
10. Local jobs, health care, bike paths, sports, and access to public transportation. Continued protection for irrigated land. Sewer processing facility and no outhouses or inadequate septic tanks. A processing facility for apples-cider-apple syrup. Public access to a chipper for chipping pruned branches. Access to recycling.
11. Money.
12. Hard working people.
13. Rental services.
14. Middle and high school.
15. Bank, ATM, or community-based credit union!
16. Recycling center.
17. More frequent fresh vegetable sales.
18. Probably less is better.
19. Local electric co-op.
20. An electrician, a plumber, and a handy man.
21. A community kitchen for making and processing value-added products.
22. An art supply store.
23. More publicity on current happenings. WE need to listen and use KLDK more. Town Crier is good.
24. A fish farm.

Our Community's Past

VII. If you grew up in Dixon, what are your favorite memories from your childhood here? (29 responses out of 83 surveys collected with duplicate answers noted.)

1. School and teachers who would take us to Lebeos for treats!
2. The close relatives visiting each other. Getting along and working together.
3. The adventure of learning to swim in the Embudo Creek. Mountain climbing on surrounding hills. Our Fiesta of Santa Rose that has been revived.
4. Walking, the store, the river. The Trailways bus as the way to go see dad in Santa Fe.
5. Helping my parents gardening.
6. Playing by the river and hiking the surrounding hills.
7. Fishing the Rio Embudo with my dad.
8. Swimming in the river. Riding bikes with friends. Basketball games.
9. Playing in the river. (this was said many times)
10. Going to school.
11. Playing with the kids. Less technology.
12. We had more liberty to do things like ride horseback and play games outside. WE had more neighbors and more respect for each other, living very humbly.
13. The natural river how it used to be.
14. Helping my aunt Viv plant vegetables.
15. The ditch, the gardens, the orchards, the river, hiking, biking, and parties with friends.

16. Growing up not having to worry about gangs and drugs.
17. Living off the land and working hard.
18. The peaceful valley.
19. Walking long distances.
20. Growing local apples, chili, and local varieties of vegetables and fruits. Selling them. Smelling the warm apple pies of my Grandma.
21. (My husband says), "Riding his bike to Lebeos for an ice cream during the summer.
22. When I met my wife Jullieanna.
23. It was a quiet community and everyone stayed to themselves.
24. Growing up with family members and close knit friends. Growing up on a farm where we grew up tilling the soil for all kinds of fruits and vegetables.
25. The sense of community.

VIII. What is your best memory about the library and co-op property in downtown Dixon (Zeller's Family property)? (Many did not answer this question)

1. Music on the grass, 3 generations and 3 cultures dancing and talking together.
2. Securing this downtown land for use by the whole community.
3. A place where people congregate.
4. Having the good Zeller's Store, later Lebeo's, plus other small stores throughout the community where we could walk and enjoy a soda or candies.
5. Dixon Santa Rosa festival (mentioned several times)
6. Lebeo's store where everyone knew everyone.
7. Growing up the store was Lebeo's and it was family-oriented then. Not so much now.
8. Riding my bike around town.
9. Being in the Carnelian Center, the orchard, and at the Farmer's market.
10. Just being able to find information.
11. Zeller's store was big enough and convenient and had a lot of farmer's supplies. Also learning the latest news from Lebeo Martinez.
12. Playing with the kids and having less technology.
13. There is always a friendly face and someone to help.
14. Lebeo, Lydia Zellers and family. The welcome and acceptance of people.
15. Just keeps getting better!
16. Seeing how the library has grown from just a few boxes of books to what it is now.
17. Everything is close by and convenient.
18. Jane Kaluda who was there at the library from the very beginning.
19. A gathering place.
20. When I first moved here Lebeo called me "Prima". It made me feel accepted.
21. The book sale and Farmer's market.
22. New construction. Being involved. The co-op expansion effort.
23. Everyone pitching in to help open the co-op and the library.\
24. Fiestas and community events (mentioned many times).
25. Conrad inviting me to the fiesta for fajitas.
26. Brings the community together.

27. The place was in decline by the time I arrived. In 22 plus years, it's never been as vibrant as it is now.
28. The enjoyment that my children shared attending the summer reading program.

IX: What are the reason you live here and have continued to live here?

1. I like the arts and crafts, the cultural history, the warmth of the people. Being able to grow and enjoy good, wholesome fruit and vegetables.
2. The inability to move due to low income.
3. We feel like we "fit" in the community as older, artistic, "old hippies".
4. My kids love the school and the people who work there. Everyone watches out for everyone.
5. My child attends school here.
6. I caretake a home for a woman who currently is in Hawaii and help raise her granddaughter.
7. The people, the activities.
8. Because it is beautiful and the community is good.
9. The Dixon market, the school, the post office and library.
10. Dear friends and beautiful lands.
11. We have land and a house here.
12. Stable, caring community.
13. I came here to get out of the rat race. I stay for community, friends, and beauty.
14. This is our home place. I love it here.
15. The people, scenery, creative vibes, and the farms.
16. I grew up in a small, close-knit summer community and was looking for the same kind of place. I love it!
17. Community, natural beauty, acequias.
18. For Dixon Elementary.
19. My land, my job, community support.
20. I was born here, and went to school here in elementary school and I had good teachers. There were a lot of stores here at one time.
21. Deep, deep family roots.
22. Quality of life and speed of life. Friends, children and support.
23. I live in Chamisal but my sister lives in Cañoncito by the river so I've spent lots of hours visiting as a child.
24. I grew up here so this place will always be part of my heart. I don't see myself living anywhere else.
25. I am a Dixon native. I own my house and I will always live here.
26. This is where we grew up. I wouldn't change it.
27. Community, friends, love of the landscape, my land, working at the Carnelian center.
28. It is a great community with interesting, awesome people of different backgrounds.
29. I own property that was handed down by our fore-fathers, and "heirlooms" that are well cherished.
30. I raised a family here and built a home here.
31. Because it is safe, rural, and I am able to invent myself here.

X: What would you like the library to focus on in the future?

The activities marked with a "1" as a high priority with the # of times marked were:

- Focus on library services, books, and movies (40)
- Pre-kinder educational support (41)
- Youth Educational support and programming(36)
- Teen Educational support and programming (42)
- Adult educational support and programming (19)
- Senior support(50)
- Make library more sustainable by starting an income-generating business (9)
- Food hub for small farmers(23)
- Small business incubation (4)
- Outdoor classroom on irrigation and plants(4)
- Preschool(22)
- Other thoughts: a Jr. High (2)
 - Longer hours like open at 9am till 7pm
 - Skill-sharing workshops as often as people are willing to share
 - Art shows (community sponsored)
 - Movie nights
 - More of the community lecture series
 - Energy independence
 - Keep up the good work! (2)
 - Gas station (2)
 - Recreational park for kids
 - Skateboard park
 - Assisted living
 - Youth Center
 - More computers
 - Summer camp
 - Field trips
 - Gym in the garage that costs about \$4/time with donated equipment

XI: Sharing a story about the positive effects of the library

"My daughter would go to the library almost daily. They worked with her preferences and ordered books to accommodate her. It was a personal touch. She walked there, she knew the people behind the desk and they knew her, supported her, and nourished her. Small town benefit."

"Audio books are an important part of my work day as are DVDs to relax in the evenings. I also really love all the local books that the library carried. I love seeing children of all ages using the library when I go in. It fosters quiet and respect and that is wonderful!"

"Since we don't have a TV, we appreciate the many movies and books available there. Using the computers and internet have been great too."

"The library has resources I couldn't afford and has assisted me in accessing them to help my learning. Thanks!"

"The kids love to check out books and the computers that are available are great. It's good to see that libraries are no a thing of the past."

"A story? The library is a treasure trove of stories. We read them, view them, and hear them in lectures and readings. The library provides these things and so our lives in this small town are richer."

"I would have absolutely NO entertainment at all, period, if I was not able to borrow DVDs from the library. I hope these services are never cut back or curtailed."

"My child loves to use the library. My child knows for the most part that chances are he will run across friends there. The library has lots of nice programs. Thanks for everything you do!"

"The library has positively affected my child. He enjoys going to the library all the time. He is reading more and learning computers more and more."

"The library provides me with an opportunity to volunteer and feel like I'm making a difference and helping my community."

"The library is the thing that drew me here (to Dixon). The fact that this community would put its resources into a library."

"The library has made it possible for children from low income families to have access to books and computers."

"The library is a great place to resource the imagination and appreciate the recent talks that are being offered. They seem to be well attended."

"I now read all the time."

"Felicity (has positively affected me)!! And finding the book "What It Is", and using it to create writing workshops and become a better teacher and writer."

"The library became a home for my collection of cartoon videos. I was happy to share."

"When my children were younger there was only the school library. Today it is great to have this library."

"Andrew is a prolific reader and needs more books two or three times per week. Reading is our entertainment."

"The library has created a hub and foundation for continual strengthening of our community. My family as a whole benefits from all it has to offer."

"The library is the best place for me to access high speed internet and to use the video phone to connect with my deaf employees."

"Our kids were early participants in the Family Literacy program. I ran the program briefly. Our extended kid group benefitted from the routines and availability of resources for families and children."

“My children have greatly been positively affected by the after-school program. They enjoy all the environmental teaching and all the different reading brought into our little community.”

“As a business we have enjoyed having a notary. That’s huge! For our son, the after-school program has been incredible not to mention renting movies and books.”

“The library has made me happy!”

“The Embudo Valley Library has been a critical part of this community’s development in the last generation, providing a safe place for kids to go after school, providing free internet access for those who need it, providing the place to revive our fiestas de Santa Rosa, and so much else. This small town is great because of it.”