

July 6, 2016 Community Town Hall

Unmet Needs Survey Comments

NOTE: Each cell in the below table contains comments made by one participant, either in the comment section or written in the margins of the survey.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses that are left standing need to be protected • Signs that say the area floods is a good start • If the area is going to have a focus on revitalization there needs to be an emphasis on preserving Blanco Gardens as a neighborhood. Local businesses also tend to invest more into becoming a part of the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, after living at our home for <u>30 years</u>, we will be selling and moving to another location. This planning process is good and well-intended but <u>I don't believe</u> anything will be in place to prevent or minimize risk of flooding <u>before</u> the next flood-risk period. P.S. In <u>1998</u> we had 2 in. of water in our <u>converted carport</u>. In <u>2015</u> we had <u>14 in.</u> in May in <u>our house</u> and 4 in. <u>in the house in October</u>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see water storage in 3 areas on the Blanco River, open fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further education needed for homeowners, current and future, to help ensure in case of future disasters that assistance will be provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to feel safe. We are elderly (80 & 72 yrs) and it is very hard to move when you don't have where to go and when all your life savings is in this home. All we want is not to flood anymore.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Stop building</u> in floodplains. Make parks or <u>non-housing</u> areas. If new laws are made, would present families be grandfathered in? Let families have tax exemption for being in the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood mitigation to prevent <u>future</u> floods; i.e. flood control dams on Blanco (like Purgatory dams) • <u>Not</u> re-route Blanco River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost prohibitive ○ River will return to its original channel ○ Do not affect downstream areas – Martindale, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the streets in the flooded area being repaved and nothing is being done about the drainage? ½ - ¾ of the Blanco Gardens neighborhood has no drainage under the road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tear down the Woods Apartments on River Road • Where is the money coming from to pay for the consulting firm? From HUD funds? Not one penny from the government has been given to us and I don't feel that we will see a penny now.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not receive any outside assistance b/c “we didn't need any, we paid for the work ourselves or did it ourselves. • The best solution for this funding is housing raising. • Would like to see drainage improvements to make neighborhoods more resistant to flooding, “IN NEIGHBORHOOD ONLY” • Need for housing is so great we cannot do this type of solution (text added when answering the question about the best type of economic development unmet needs). • Would like, “a radio station that runs during flood events”. • The housing need for elevation and repair is so overwhelming, please do not siphon off these funds to spend on the bypass idea. It is not practical for a river that floods as <u>high</u> and as often as the Blanco. We need to assess what impacts all the building of apartments east of 35 on the Blanco and on floodplain.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My basement and others on my block flooded. We did not as for any kind of assistance; we did all of the cleanup ourselves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a bypass on the Blanco River • [With regard to the question about economic development unmet needs] This will not prevent flooding/waste of money
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to look on the drainage. I live on the corner of Bliss Lane and Barbara Drive, there is no drainage and water can't flow anywhere and it just stands still. I notice after they fix Barbara Dr last week more water stood still. We really need drainage. Please have someone check out this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix the drainage easements and create detention ponds to be fed by water channeled by the drainage easements that now work. • I have been preaching, begging, and documenting for over a year the need to repair the long neglected drainage easements in Blanco Gardens especially. These no longer channel storm water. Not only do they need to be re-dug where they are now flat, there are streets blocking any possible water flow. We need culverts replaced or installed and there are no detention ponds present in the Blanco Gardens area. I have identified two possible locations for these yet to be created detention ponds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added, "diversion channel for the Blanco or other river mitigation" to the question about the best solution community unmet housing needs. • I see elevation changes to homes as being too risky and too expensive. Plus, who wants to move out so this work can be done? We just moved home. The price of elevation change to homes is not cost effective. Buyouts are <u>NOT</u> an option to me. Even if BG [Blanco Gardens] becomes greenspace why should we move? We <u>HAD</u> green space but now The Woods is there. Why do they get to stay but we have to move? A relocation plan is insulting to me. I don't live in a cookie cutter planned community. The relocation idea sounds like you're going to move us to "the projects". Please cooperate with the County and State for a bold infrastructure solution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should understand the Blanco River watershed and how to reduce flooding. • Keep the water from entering the neighborhood. • Are potential home buyers or renters warned that the residence is in a floodplain? • Shouldn't builders and developers not be allowed to build in a floodplain? • Let's focus on the Blanco River watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bypass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Blanco River Levee Authority • Construct gated levee system to contain flood stage events protecting commercial and residential properties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not build apartments in flood prone areas! We begged you not to approve The Woods apts. • Investigate why Blanco River Village (subdivision behind Walmart on Hwy 21) did not flood. • Instead of elevating individual homes lower the streets. That improves drainage and changes the Base Flood Elevations so the houses are above it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I selected multiple choices because they all relate to the needs for the community. Can't just pick one and ignore the others. It would be selfish to pick one and not the other.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking care of two elders 81 and 64 yrs old, two teens and myself 41 yrs. Been displaced for a year after that. Need help with beds and furniture.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not dig a Blanco River bypass or overflow project • [Regarding the question about Economic Development] None of these is too good. • Social Service needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food bank ○ Car assistance ○ Social workers to really help people • Need radio based info warning system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have followed the City's rules on getting our permits to repair our home and unfortunately we tried to elevate our home and as the home was elevated to 24 inches it fell back to the ground. Now our home is beyond damaged and has to be demolished. Our neighbors just repaired their homes and moved back in without permits. The City would not give us a permit until we decided to elevate our home. Buy why didn't the City enforce the section 8 housing to be elevated? Why was a homeowner granted a permit when their property was substantially damaged from the 1st flood (May)? Very upset that we are still without a home. My home was my dream home. I don't see how the City could make us satisfied and meet our needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a resident I would like to know when the City will assist the need of the residents in need.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey was completed at a similar meeting with similar questions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we do while we wait for the process to develop? Taxes on our property have already been evaluated and we have received notice (same evaluation as prior to the flood). • City needs to buy me a home because myself and my husband are senior citizens. My husband has a heart problem and a bad diabetic. He gets tired easy when we had to clean both floods. If you weren't affected by the flood you don't know how it feels to see your home and house with water and mud damage to your home and contents, the cleaning of sheds, and your yard. On the second floor just by seeing what we had to clean again it affected his defibrillator because he got very upset and angry. When I took him to his doctor that checks his defibrillator he asked what happened on that date. I told him the flood for the second time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do some foot work when it rains. Go out to the flooding area to see first-hand what the problems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to improve drainage! Imperative. • All the construction around us is making it worse. Apartments (Aspen Heights), hotels (Hilton Hotel), and not enough drainage in our neighborhood. • The City of San Marcos put us in a tight spot when allowed Aspen Heights apartments to elevate their land.