

Carnation Budget Priorities Survey - RESULTS

72 Surveys Returned

1. If you are a Carnation resident, which area of town do you live in? Choose only one.

7	Carnation Meadows I & II
3	Brumbaugh & Mobile Home Park
11	East of Sno-Valley Trail & south of Entwistle
13	Regal Glen
21	West of Sno-Valley Trail & north of Entwistle
6	West of Sno-Valley Trail & south of Entwistle except Regal Glen

1b. If you do not live in Carnation, do you own a business or property in the City?

- 6 I own a business
- 2 I own property

2. How many years have you lived in Carnation?

1	Less than 1 year
15	1 -4 years
16	5 – 10 years
35	More than 10 years

3. How would you rate the livability of Carnation overall? Please check one.

11	Exceeds expectations
44	Meets expectations
8	Does not meet expectations
1	Substantially does not meet expectations

4. When you think of Carnation what comes to mind?

5. What is the most important thing that the city can do to maintain and/or improve the livability of the community?

6. How would you rate the job that the City is doing in providing services and managing issues facing the community? Please check one.

4	Exceeds expectations
37	Meets expectations
17	Does not meet expectations
5	Substantially does not meet expectations

7. How would you rate the level of service that the City provides in the following areas:

Service	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Does not meet expectations	Substantially does not meet expectations
Communicating with citizens	9	41	13	2
Street maintenance	2	40	14	7
Parks maintenance	7	46	12	1
Police protection and patrols	6	51	3	1
Code enforcement	3	30	16	3
Permitting and development review	4	28	11	5
Water service	5	57	1	1
Sewer service	4	47	6	6
Comments:				

8. How important are the following city services to you? Please rank them in order of importance from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important. **Please select the five most important to you and then rank them from 1 to 5 (1 = most important)**

Service Area	Ranking (1-5)	Ranking Order
Business Attraction & Retention	2.415	2
Downtown revitalization and beautification	3.142	6
Enhancing streets through capital improvement projects (i.e. street reconstruction and traffic safety measures)	3.021	4
Making improvements for pedestrians and bicycles	3.179	7
Ongoing regular parks maintenance	3.340	8
Ongoing regular street maintenance (filling potholes, asphalt overlay)	2.842	3
Parks upgrades and development	3.121	5
Police protection and patrols	2.134	1
Responding to code enforcement requests (i.e. removing junk vehicles, property maintenance complaints)	3.363	9
Comments:		

9. Would you be willing to pay more money to maintain or increase any of these areas of service and if so how would you like to pay for them?

Service Area	Are you willing to pay more?			If so, how would you pay more?		
	Not willing to pay more	Yes, pay more to maintain current service	Yes, pay more to increase service	Raise property tax through levy or bond	Pay more out of existing operating budget	Provide private donations
Business Attraction & Retention	39	11	11	6	14	11
Downtown revitalization and beautification	34	15	10	5	12	20
Enhancing streets through capital improvement projects (i.e. street reconstruction and traffic safety measures)	25	17	11	10	19	6
Making improvements for pedestrians and bicycles	37	6	13	9	11	7
Ongoing regular parks maintenance	32	25	5	4	21	11
Ongoing regular street maintenance (filling potholes, asphalt overlay)	30	10	16	9	13	15
Parks upgrades and development	30	10	16	9	13	15
Police protection and patrols	29	21	10	15	15	4
Responding to code enforcement requests (i.e. removing junk vehicles, property maintenance complaints)	42	13	4	8	11	4
Comments:						

10. Do you believe that Carnation has enough special/community events?

54 Yes
12 No

If No, what additional types of events would you like to see offered?

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11. Would you like the City to spend money to fund additional special/community events throughout the year?

13 Yes
39 No

12. How confident are you in the City's ability to continue to provide existing services within the city budget over the long term? Please check one.

6	Very confident
20	Confident
28	Somewhat confident
12	Not at all confident

13a. If revenue does not keep pace with growth and demand for services, which of the following options would you prefer the city use to balance the budget?

16	Raise property taxes
37	Charge user fees for non-essential services
22	Reduce or eliminate services

13b. If you checked reduce or eliminate services, which of the following would you recommend reducing or eliminating?

10	Communicating with citizens
8	Street maintenance
9	Parks maintenance
5	Police protection and patrols
17	Code enforcement
13	Permitting and development review
9	Close parks

14. Additional comments you would like to share:

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2010 Carnation Budget Priorities Survey – Comments

3. How would you rate the livability of Carnation overall?

- Country beauty is outstanding, but downtown is fading
- Odd question, I know what to expect, not much has changed
- Love the small town atmosphere, good schools and library
- Most activities & needs are close by: biking, walking, coffee, grocery, restaurants, gas...
- Speeders on Entwistle
- No new business here since sewers installed
- VERY low expectation
- Great place to live
- Becoming very expensive
- Sewer costs are out of sight
- Need stoplight to help with traffic, need good restaurant (not ethnic), drive-in etc. pharmacy
- Love the trail, the rivers, the quiet & the beauty of the valley
- Need traffic light at Entwistle intersection! Please!
- My street and the Brumbaugh neighborhood are full of drug dealers!! Do something about it!
- Meets expectations in the people coming together as a community, but feel that the City keeps putting up road blocks & hurdles to discourage any positive momentum
- Small enough & flat enough to walk anywhere
- More family-oriented activities and places to go
- It has gone down substantially since we moved here
- Great!
- Could be better – need to grow our downtown
- Even though we have a sewer there really hasn't been much business growth as predicted. I was sorry to see Eldorado Stone leave, especially because of the tax base the City lost.
- Of all the places I've lived, I like it here the best.
- City is pricing/taxing us out of our homes.

4. When you think of Carnation what comes to mind?

- Happy cows! (And good folks)
- Country charm
- Small town, great trails, beautiful area, nature
- Floods
- A small town, semi-country
- Incarnation, a biblical focus
- Small town not far from the big city
- Small town
- Livable small town
- Close community
- Ecliptic old small town with bright/bold colors
- Community, cultural diversity amongst small population, quiet, relaxing
- Small town
- Peace
- Small town, safe, natural beauty, farming
- Wonderful small town in fabulous country area
- Pleasant town to spend time in
- A town bogged down by nit picking with no goals
- Comfortable small town community
- Great community, cute town, beautiful scenery, farms
- Rural small town
- Home, neighbors, small town community where you feel comfortable and can live within your means
- Small town not overly crowded, river, trails
- Quiet, peaceful
- Walk able, it's great to walk to work
- Cows
- Open space, quiet living
- Home!
- Little town
- Beautiful
- Quiet, safe
- Small, quiet, rural town
- Home
- Small town
- Small
- A small, friendly town, grateful my child was raised here
- Farming
- Small town
- Cows
- Vacant businesses on main street
- Losing our river access ☹ Don't remove the levy!
- Milk
- Community, family-friendly
- Small town, community living, cows (used to), floods
- Walk able, trails, small town, farmlands/cows, funky, not suburban
- Small town, quiet, beautiful

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- Farming town
- Highest sewer cost in the nation
- Bad city management, poor communication
- Peace, community, family, freedom
- Safe, run down commercial buildings, small town life
- Country lifestyle with urban resources at hand
- Remlinger Farms
- Highway making street crossing impossible
- Home
- Natural beauty, friendly people, strong community
- Small town, privacy, friends & neighbors, safe
- Small town feeling, home. My family has been here for over eighty years.
- Great community with lots of supp. friendly people great local business
- Simplicity
- Rural living, new urban shopping

5. What is the most important thing that the city can do to maintain and/or improve the livability of the community?

- Dredge the river!
- Cut fees, taxes, services
- Get business. We need a tax base. You are driving people away.
- Safety with police
- Have more retail so people don't have to travel to another larger town.
- Maintain public community spaces (i.e. parks, farmer's market) and promote community events (4th of July, farmer's market, concerts)
- Keep small town
- Bring in basic services, zone for affordability, TRAFFIC LIGHT AT ENTWISTLE & 203
- No strip malls or neighborhoods with houses 10 ft apart
- Make the downtown area more uniform (the bright bold colored buildings like Ixtapa, City Hall, fire station, Millers, laundry/storage, buildings are all bold) repaint, make the rest of the buildings more bold/bright colors
- More police on Entwistle
- Listen, balance progressive concerns moving forward with the heritage and history of what's come previously
- Encourage, not discourage new business activity and EXPAND the tax base instead of saddling residents with more taxes and fees, get real!
- Maintain police protection
- Stop light please
- Revitalize down town district
- Fight foolish politicians and people who believe animals and fish are equal to people, fight to improve flooding concerns
- Keep unique things that make town special, shops, parks, 4th of July, farmer's market, etc. and keep nice neat look of town/city
- Make safety (police), parks, cleanliness #1 goal
- Keep from growing too fast
- Add/maintain sidewalks, parks, community areas
- Keep crime down
- Stop charging so much for new things, leave the city like it is
- Maintain trails for walking, parks, senior activities
- Be business friendly
- Keep sidewalks & roads maintained
- Put speed bumps on residential roads and forbid local commercial traffic (W Bird St)
- Keep things "small town" and quiet
- Get stoplight
- Lower water/sewer rates!!! It's more than anyone else I know!
- Lose the hillbilly look. Keep it neat and clean. Add a couple of stop lights.
- Support local farmers & businesses. Promote tourism, for bicyclists & hikers, etc.
- Contain growth, the flood plain has done a wonderful job for why I have not moved in 31 years.
- Great schools, need rec. center/pool, traffic light @ Entwistle/Tolt, larger size house lots maintained
- Maintain the parks and streets
- Community service, block party, clean neighborhood
- Improve parks
- More businesses

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- Quicker response times from law enforcement, better action from police once they finally get there!
- Update parks with existing money, budget better, and lower taxes
- Pedestrian & bike friendly
- Maintain balance between growth & charm of town. Pay attention to positive influences & trends of valley & develop/grow with these – organic farms, community, sustainable living, beauty of area, independent business. Please truly support the viable & important parts of Carnation, they are unique to the area & can give Carnation more of a cohesive & solid identity.
- Economic/commercial development, non-suburban development
- Do something about the abandoned buildings on main street
- Improve the parks
- Reduce costs of government. Carnation is NOT a big city, it is a small town.
- Understand the importance of good relationships with businesses in town
- Support existing after-school & summer activities for kids – keep the community involved.
- Attract quality down town development
- Fix the terrible street conditions, i.e. Morrison (full of pot-holes, no curbs/gutters, etc.)
- Encourage new business
- Get street traffic light
- Economic infrastructure
- Support the farmers, build the commercial kitchen, advertise and make Carnation magnet for visitors
- Good City management, street improvements (all), quick response to problems
- I love the small town feeling but we have always been a rural farming community and just because the farmers are not right in town, I still think we should support the farming community because all those people shop, eat and support the city with their business.
- Continue pushing business sup. find ways to entertain our children
- Focus on essential services (police, fire, water, roads) instead of getting carried away as a facilitator or cruise director for “special events”. Let the Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, etc. do the “extras” with the City’s blessing.
- Make it easier to work with city & it’s codes to maintain property.

6. How would you rate the job that the City is doing in providing services and managing issues facing the community?

- City management needs more vision. Doesn't work well with the people. Is only concerned with the fast & not thinking long-term.
- I think the city does what it can most of the time, there is room for improvement
- Was disappointed the parks were closed down but raises were handed out
- Still deciding
- VERY low expectation
- Offer a FORUM for discussion of possible things to happen (i.e. park closures)
- Think they are becoming too expensive and getting to grow too much, don't know how long can keep up
- Short help to maintain trails, parks
- Overly restrictive in many areas, all the new codes, etc.
- This will happen by the businesses as they come and grow.
- Sewer bills are too high. Where is the business?
- A commercial kitchen !? Seriously? You couldn't even provide enough money in the budget to keep the sani-cans in the parks maintained. 3 private businesses had to pay to keep Fred Hockert Park open! And now you want to spend \$300,000 to build a commercial kitchen!? For what?!
- Pay attention to the residents of Carnation and not just the residents of all King County
- Glad we are having opportunity to do survey, but feel involvement & voice falls on deaf ears. Does not encourage positive change, everything presented or businesses coming in just get restrictions & "No", rather than a willingness by City to see how everyone could benefit, a "how can we make this work" attitude.
- Communication is poor
- All City staff has always been helpful when I call with questions
- Support healthy business to provide for citizens
- Maintain parks & streets
- Road conditions are terrible West of 203.
- Need to focus on the drug selling, shut it down

7. How would you rate the level of service that the City provides in the following areas:

- We the people never asked for sewers
- Bob Gilbertson and his crew are the best! He has always done a superb job for many years.
- VERY expensive sewer service
- Our walk down Spilman Ave to Carnation Elementary is all about avoiding big puddles and trying not to get hit by cars.
- Sewer is expensive
- We pay too much for sewer service
- Water and sewer are absurdly expensive
- More communication, discussion opportunity before making things happen
- Would have liked to stay with septic, but forced to hook up to more expensive sewer
- Sewer cost is too high!
- Code enforce – all unused vehicles on and around property
- I have yet to work with the City on anything
- Sewer over-priced
- The bulbs are a hazard to bicyclists and a waste of money. Some of the drains are at high spots so they don't function (like at Tolt Ave & Rutherford).
- The whole sewer system was an example of bullying. We were forced to do it, if you didn't you still had to pay sewer rates, and there was nothing wrong with my septic!
- Do not like nightly visits from cops!
- We're getting there on street maintenance...
- Codes & permitting are overly strict – not fair to school district, small businesses & homeowners.
- Bob, Ryan, Chris-your public works crew is the best!
- The continuing cost of maintaining water and sewer is a burden to my family, it all seems way too big for such a small town.
- 15k for a commercial kitchen?? City newspaper – even one sheet with water bill - would be better notification than newspaper (Valley View)
- I was surprised that there was both hookup fee to county & to city on top of cost of building sewer lines & KC processing plant.

8. How important are the following city services to you?

- Everything possible should be done to attract and keep business of ALL kinds, and not make it difficult for people to run their businesses (like limited CAR PARKING)
- It is often hard to get out of town with traffic and no stoplight
- We need to keep what we have before we can spend too much on new things. Also, I do NOT believe it would benefit the city as a whole to put a traffic light at Tolt Ave & Entwistle.
- Speeders on Entwistle are crazy, including city-owned vehicles, please help before somebody gets hurt or killed
- Ridiculous fees and charges proposed on business seeking to expand (i.e. Sandy's Espresso). If this is that way you welcome expanded or new business nobody will come here!
- Job of government is uphold law
- Being livable means being safe, clean, this will attract and retain business
- Never have seen codes enforced, most things are good as they are, there is no real need to improve
- Great job! Carnation is really looking good, thank you.
- QFC Plaza, downtown need remodel-look new
- Personal "junk yards" example: 4950 Stewart
- E Morrison St need speed bumps! Too many cars fly down that street! Children walk to/from school down that street! And while you're at it, arrest the drug dealer who deals out of his bedroom window at 32239 E Morrison St! He does this within 100 yds of the Elementary School! I've seen it!
- Budget better
- Streets are in dire need of resurfacing West of 203 – side streets like Morrison.
- Lots of yards have junk in them and old cars.
- I like the flower pots, benches and street signs, do we need more than that??

9. Would you be willing to pay more money to maintain or increase any of these areas of service and if so how would you like to pay for them?

- Governments are all spending way too much for everything! Stop spending and rely on community ideas to help with this town!
- I have NO more money. Between you, the county, state and feds, I have no money left!!! STOP SPENDING!
- Job of government is uphold law
- Stop the increases water, sewer rates
- Stop raising the price of everything, people cannot afford it
- Some neighbors have cars all over their property and junk (still have Halloween & Christmas decorations up) and people living in campers. If this is against code, why doesn't anyone do anything about it? It makes the neighborhood look like crap (E Morrison St).
- Use and seek out fed. grant \$\$, make better use of what we have now.
- People need to be responsible and maintain their own property
- Been down E Rutherford St lately? Gross!
- It was a crushing blow to lose the Carnation-only police. Response times are sloooow now. Whatever actions taking place that needed police presence, are gone by the time police actually get there! So it continues, never being resolved!
- These should be basic in a healthy community
- Work within your budget, like businesses and families do!

- The condition of our side-street West of 203 are atrocious and need to be resurfaced, especially on Morrison St.
- The present economic recession doesn't warrant any increase in citizens paying more taxes

10. Do you believe that Carnation has enough special/community events? If no, what additional types of events would you like to see offered?

- The town and businesses would do this if town leaders would let them and make businesses feel important while encouraging more businesses.
- Non-city sponsorship
- Swimming pool/recreation center
- One big event per quarter: July 4, Christmas, Spring, Harvest
- I like the idea of the Farmer's Market Community Kitchen.
- Carnivals during July 4th - continue parades, include Duvall and Fall City, food festivals day, August back to school event
- If businesses are successful here, they will sponsor community events
- Not sure?
- More events that coincide with some of the areas that make up Carnation, big organic farm community, big arts community, music. Bring back the cows!
- Microbrew fest, farm/harvest fest, river fest
- Summer concert on weekends
- Festivals, movies
- Constructive activities for kids – keep them off street & out of trouble
- Would like to see others added, Easter Egg Hunt, Bike Days, Green Community, Recycling, etc. events, music festival.
- More events aimed at increasing tourism – maybe aimed specifically at motorcyclists, bicyclists, fishermen, etc.
- Community gathering/meet your neighbor?
- Christmas kick-off & 4th of July – the best of the best

12. How confident are you in the City's ability to continue to provide existing services within the city budget over the long term?

- Only if businesses are ENCOURAGED to do business here who pay taxes for continued services.
- No tax base
- Without new business the revenue will not be here
- Adding "politically correct" stuff for special interests is wrong
- Keep expenses low, pay cash, don't borrow, avoid interest expenses
- Unless you get some different people on the council
- We seem to struggle with the 4th of July – we use to have more music, wish we had more money to get better entertainment
- A commercial kitchen ? ! Get your priorities straight ☹
- I've not seen the budget
- I think we way overspent on a sewer system most people didn't want. I think the city should have give Eldorado Stone their permits because we lost a big tax base and support to other businesses in the city
- Knowing there is such a difference in opinion is great
- If you keep the ESSENTIALS!

14. Additional comments you would like to share:

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- Bagwell 318xx block needs to be cleaned up, junk vehicles, prop maintenance, charge the property owner if not done
- This city will have NO services or events unless it gets over its negative treatment of businesses
- Please start using some vision!
- I don't want to wake up one day and look like Duvall.
- Except for sanican and removal of garbage, moms club, boy scouts, girl scouts or other club could do a monthly cleanup of parks
- We must get new business. Carnation residents cannot be the only tax and revenue source supporting city govt. regulations (planning, zoning etc) should be made friendly to new businesses not used to discourage it
- Need to rerun the police levy. Mayor or council need to participate in campaign to pass on own time.
- It was disappointing to hear that City staff received 5% + raises this year during a period of economic downturn when many people are receiving no raises or bonuses. 5% is very generous on most terms (usually I hear 2-3% being typical). I was also surprised to learn that not only were raises accepted by City staff, a budget shortfall then proceeded to close parks and reduce senior center services. It seems there may need to be a shift in priorities for the City of Carnation in coming years, as it should be just as important for City staff to make concessions if they are asking residents to either contribute more or see cutbacks.
- Conservation is good. "Environmentally" weird out-of-balance foolishness is beyond stupid. The political capital that Carnation politicians and citizens have should first of all be used to access reasoned and wise help regarding rivers in the area. Conservation is one thing, environmentalist religion quite another. History of the rivers and all the aspects of what may help with flooding can be known. (See testimonies from recent Lambert hearing in Carnation.) Business growth will absolutely not happen while we continue on the current path. We want new business such as organic gardeners, etc. We are able and should do all that is possible to do regarding flooding. Things such as cleaning our culverts, beaver dams, raise roads for access to bridges where feasible and dredging of trees and other debris that is known to be harmful to salmon let alone the city of Carnation should be our hue and cry. To pretend that progress (business or otherwise) will happen is foolish, naïve and blind and unbecoming to the citizens of Carnation.
- The city is spending too much time and money controlling it's citizens effort to be a community
- Parks are more important to me than police patrols or mailed water bills. Have we considered the potential cost savings of sending bills/communication via email?
- I think we should leave Carnation as it is and stop increasing things. Why have a budget problem if we can hire new employees and also get raises? If you need to cut-cut the staff. It used to be \$18 for garbage and water and now we pay \$200. Why more than other areas around us? What happened to the small town we used to have? It seems like Carnation is becoming Bellevue.
- Why wasn't cutting staff or staff wages one of the options on 13b?
- I no longer recognize Carnation as a place to retire – it's cost is way out of hand
- Your questions aren't open enough. When budgeting in these times everyone has to reduce spending like a bit off of everything maintaining those services critical to town and townspeople!
- Raising taxes should be the last and any decisions should be put to a vote by the people that LIVE in Carnation and not by the few in City Hall.

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- Biggest concern: how is school(s) going to handle increase in housing when developments go in that are low income & don't increase tax base?
- Thanks for everything you do. Carnation rocks!
- We really need a traffic light at Entwistle. Where are all the businesses sewer service would bring in??
- This is a great town, but the budgeting committee needs to get their priorities straight. Fancy street lights on Blanche? What's wrong with standard ones? And the blue signs at both far ends of Tolt Avenue? All attractions point "up"! What a waste of money!
- Why do we need so much staff for such a small community?
- Reduce staff
- Eliminate City Planner. Eliminate City Engineer retainer fees. You are spending way beyond your means.
- It's been a pretty bad experience so far!
- Let us know where services are lacking? Ask for volunteers for community projects, donations, etc.
- New development should pay for new development and help kick start the city improvements. Set a high city standard to get quality development, and turn away development that is not.
- The restrictions for private homeowners who want to sell a single lot is unrealistic & cost prohibitive. This needs to be re-written to allow private resident citizens to sub-divide &/or sell private lots within City limits without all the code restrictions of a development.
- 15-20% cut for elected City officials and 10-15% cut for City employees in salary pay.
- Junky homes & lots
- You're doing a good job
- It is difficult to look at this survey while being distracted by the swine flu pandemic
- We have had a lot of drug selling near our Elementary School. Let's crack down on this.
- I love living in Carnation. I like my neighbors, the shop owners and the easy humor and friendliness of the people I meet at the stores, or just walking. I bought my home with the intention of retiring here (if I ever do retire), and am concerned that too many "improvements" will take away the simplicity I enjoy so much.
- I am still unhappy that the City charges a fee to fix a leaking roof that said roof on a dwelling that has been in Carnation for years.