

In an effort to gather feedback regarding Walkerville's vision, local officials, organizations, and residents rallied together to conduct the Walkerville Community Assessment. Together, they identified the strengths they would like to preserve, as well as the areas where improvement is needed.

## Community Feedback: Focus Groups

### Youth

- Want job opportunities
- Need for a grocery store and other retail
- Desire for credentialed substitute teachers

### Seasonal Residents

- Lack of basic retail and public services
- Desire for closer emergency services
- Capitalize on the natural resources

### Business Owners/Bank/Economic Dev.

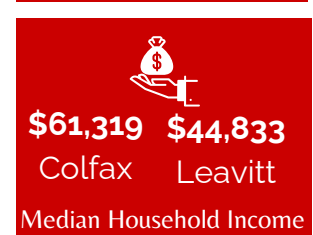
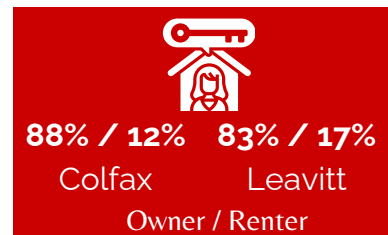
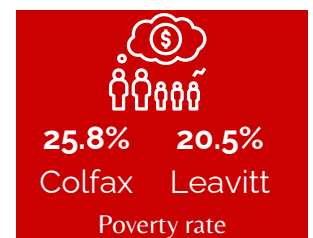
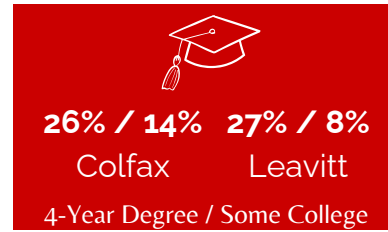
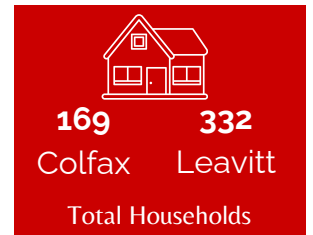
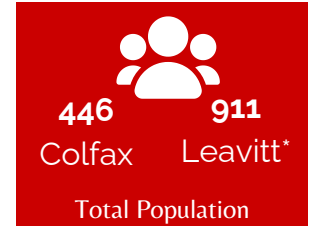
- Need decent affordable rental housing
- Desire for affordable and nearby daycare for families
- Hard to recruit new talent

### Elected & Appointed Officials

- Desire to rebuild the community
- Desire to have high-speed internet
- Need more respect for public land/blight

### Service Providers & Churches

- Need decent affordable housing
- Service providers desert
- Need public utilities



“How do we rebuild community when we have nowhere to gather as a community?”

\*Village of Walkerville data is included with Leavitt Township.

Source: U.S. Census 2020; 2022 American Community Survey; 5-Year Estimates, Census Reporter; Leavitt Township, MI, Census Reporter; Colfax Township, MI

## Priority Areas of Focus

### Business & Retail Attraction

Currently the village is served by a gas station and two Dollar stores. The community has dreams of a restaurant and access to fresh food. There are potential vacant buildings.

### Rebuild Community

The school is a tangible place to focus energy and resources to build the confidence, morale and spirit of the community. Festivals and events are another way to re-build community, build pride, and bring people together.

### Community Center

An underlying theme that ran through all of the focus groups and Town Hall was "How do we rebuild community when we have nowhere to gather as a community?" Community members desire to ID and secure a prospective building.

### Basic Human Services/Childcare

One out of three families in Walkerville live below the poverty line yet they are expected to travel to other communities to seek services. There are no human service providers with offices in Walkerville and the primary form of daycare is in private homes, unregulated, and doesn't meet overall need.

### Rehabilitating Existing/Build New Affordable Housing

The community wants to attract new young families to populate their school, and to add an infusion of fresh enthusiasm and energy to community events and activities. They want to attract good teachers and other employees with decent, affordable rental and homeowner housing