



STRONGER TOGETHER

Akron and Westfield Heart & Soul

Community Input Update

June 2023

Community Action Roundtable

- Hosted community-wide event to share ideas, highlight progress
- Organizations hosted displays to share projects, volunteer opportunities
- Attendees enjoyed a meal and time to visit about projects
- Attendees reviewed Heart & Soul value statements and most-mentioned action ideas, then ranked and added new ideas

Heart & Soul Statements

- **Active, engaged and growing communities**
We appreciate being part of an engaged community that actively brings events and activities that help attract people, drive growth and provide opportunities for everyone.
- **Community pride and small town feel**
We cherish the closeknit, small town feel of our communities, where people are willing to help each other to provide a safe environment for residents of all ages. We take pride in the look, feel and character of our towns today and for future residents and support collaborative efforts towards maintaining and improving our communities.
- **Nature and outdoor activities**
We appreciate the unique features and natural beauty of the Loess Hills, attracting people of all ages and abilities for camping, hiking, fishing and other recreation opportunities and contributing to the overall health of our community.

Heart & Soul Statements

- **Thriving, supportive businesses**
We value the wide range of local businesses that allow us to meet most needs close to home, and appreciate the support that those businesses give to our communities.
- **Commitment to education**
We recognize the value of education to the future success and growth of our community, and we strive to provide opportunities for community members to be lifelong learners.
- **Vibrant arts and culture**
We treasure our community's strong support for music, fine and visual arts and their place in providing entertainment opportunities and building connections among residents of all ages.

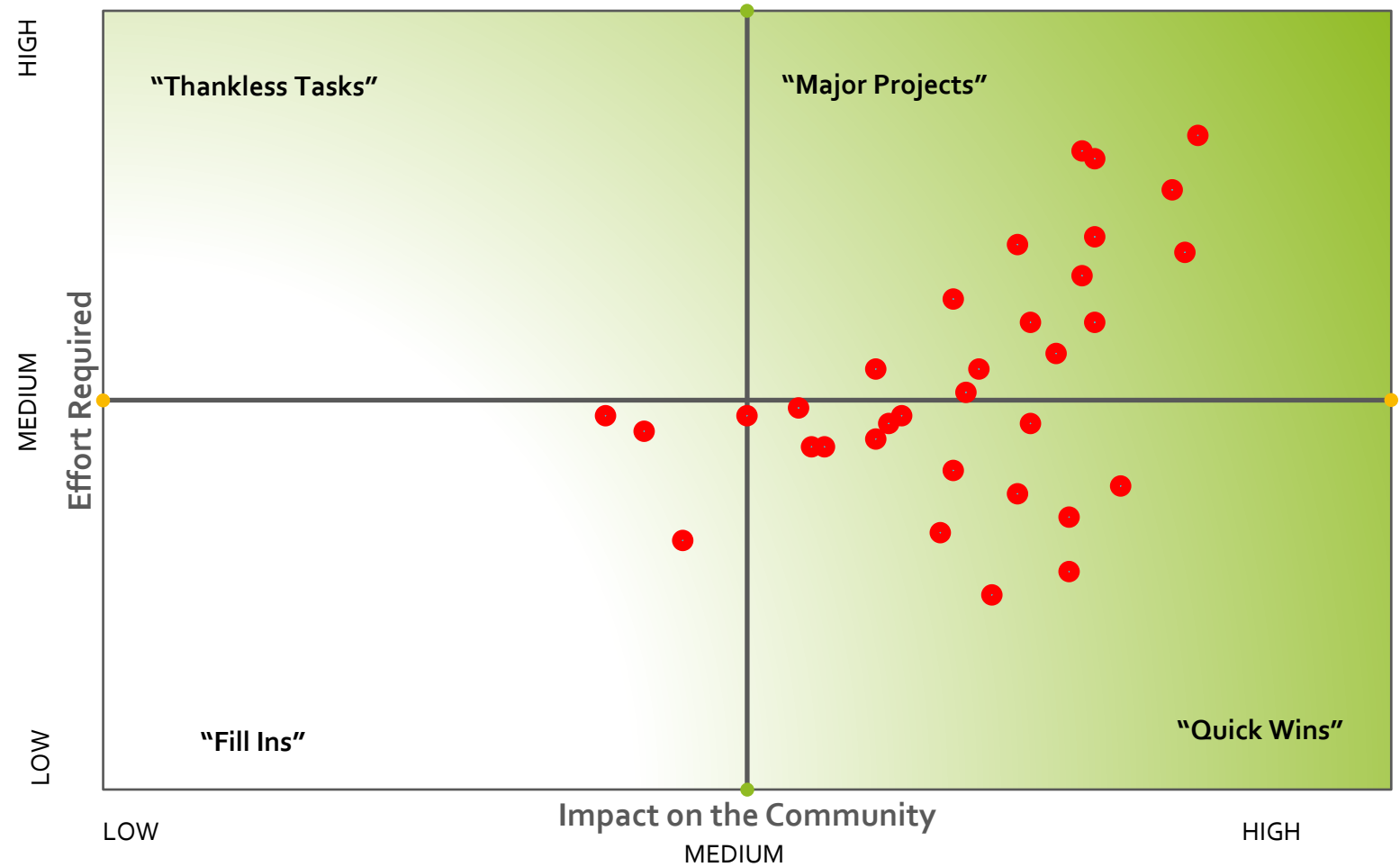
Community Roundtable Results

Participants scored ideas as low/medium/high for both the IMPACT it would have on the community and the EFFORT required to complete the project or program.



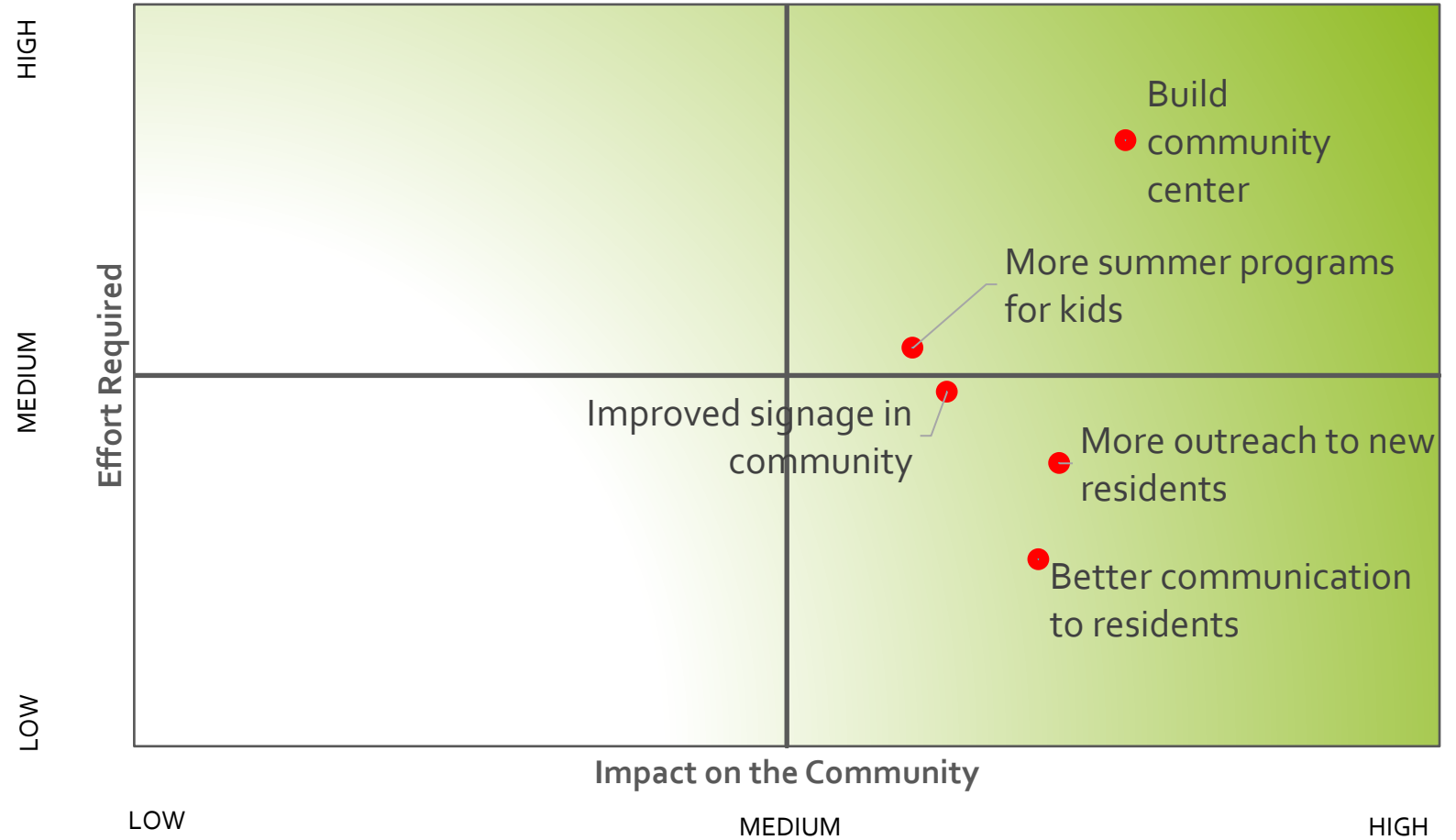
Community Roundtable Results

Almost all ideas were rated to have a high impact on the community, split between "big projects" and "easy wins."



Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Active, Engaged and Growing Communities



Community Roundtable Results

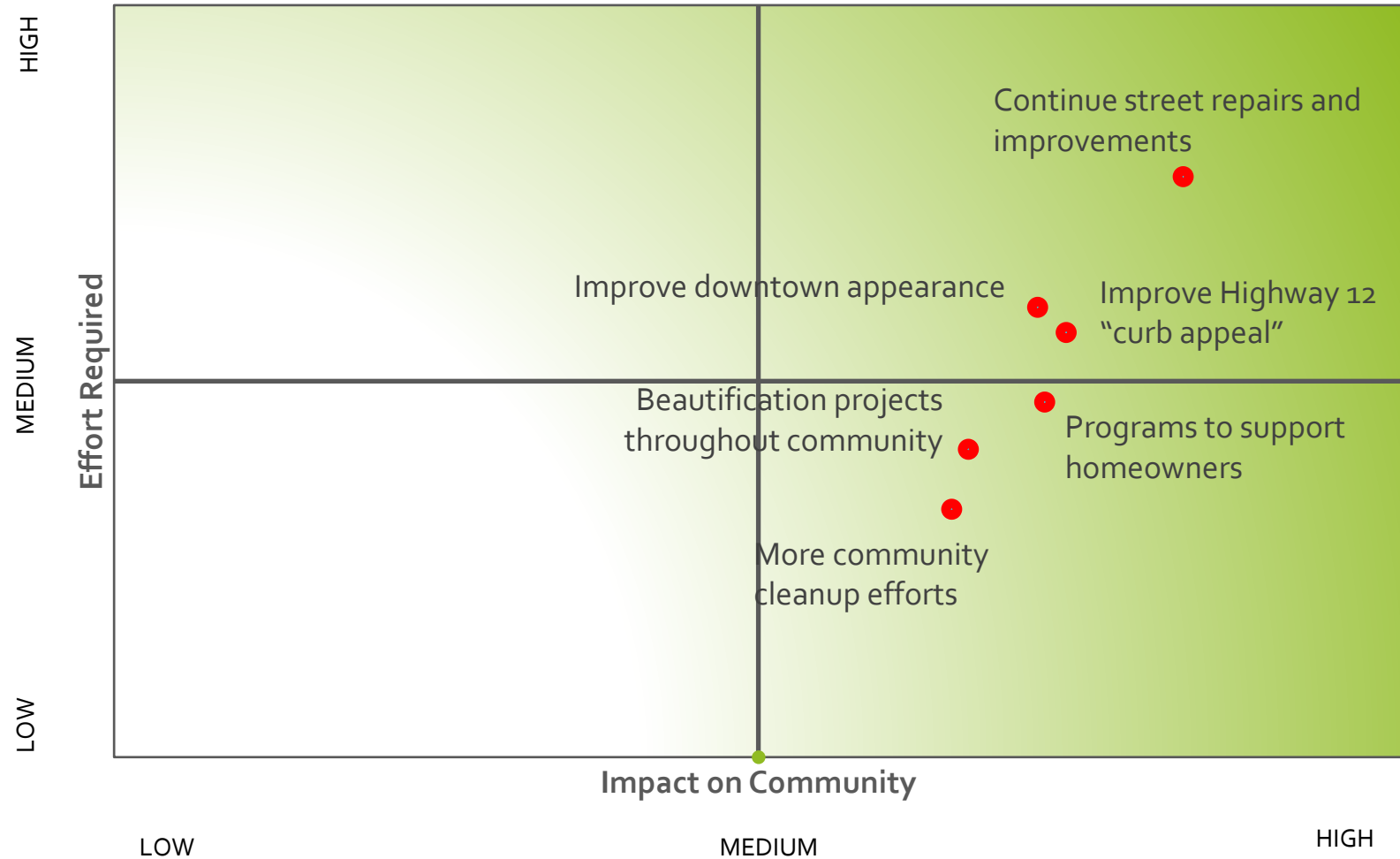
Heart & Soul Statement: Active, Engaged & Growing Communities

Ranking of other ideas:

- More activities or places for teens (17)
- Open/public gymnasium space (15)
- More community events (13)
- Recruit volunteers for Fire/EMS (12)
- Paved parking lot at golf course (10)
- Community strategic plan (9)
- Akron and Westfield apparel (5)
- More:
 - Digital board like Hawarden
 - Drapes/blinds in golf club

Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Community Pride & Small Town Feel



Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Community Pride & Small Town Feel

Ranking of other ideas:

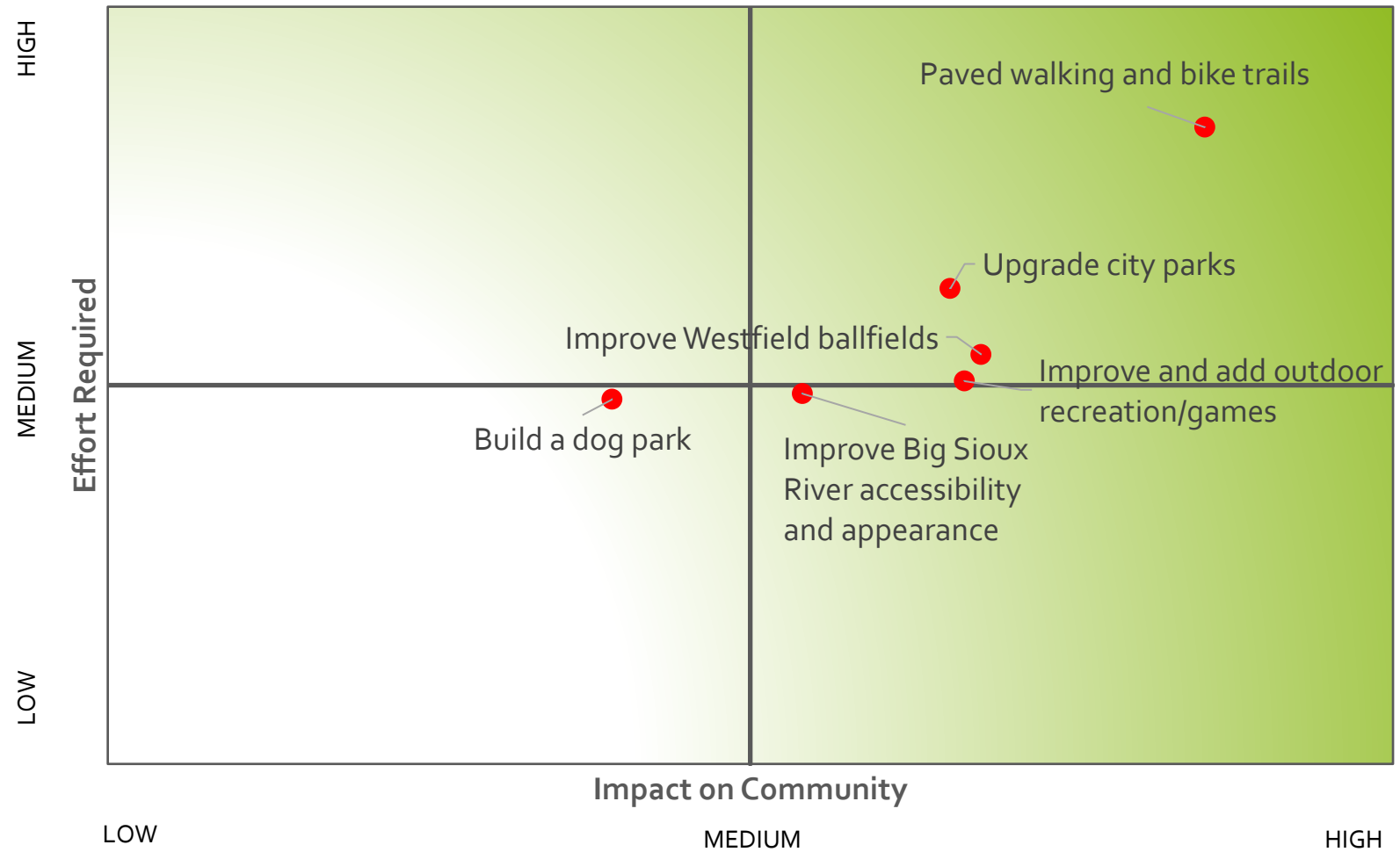
- Provide assistance for people to move items to spring/fall cleanup drop locations (17)
- Programs for neighborhood sidewalk maintenance (16)
- Donation drives for winter coats, school supplies, etc (12)

More:

- Make a difference day in October

Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Nature and Outdoor Activities



Community Roundtable Results

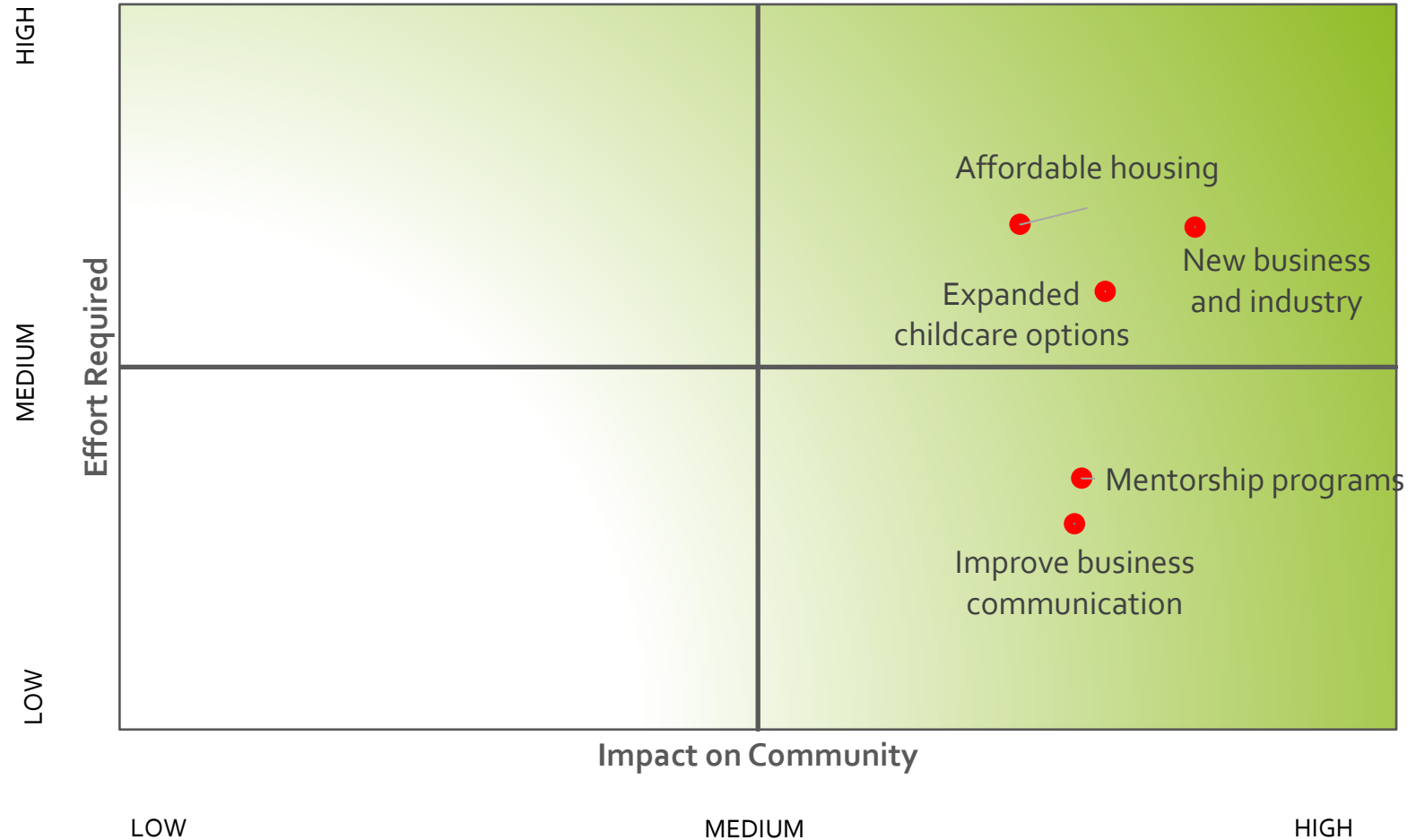
Heart & Soul Statement: Nature and Outdoor Activities

Ranking of other ideas:

- Nature programs and events (18)
- Programs to encourage exercise (17)
- Community garden (17)
- Hiking guides (16)
- Community recreation guide/resources (13)
- Community camping/campfire night (11)
- Conservation efforts (7)
- More:
 - Fun run challenge
 - Pickleball court

Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Thriving, Supportive Businesses



Community Roundtable Results

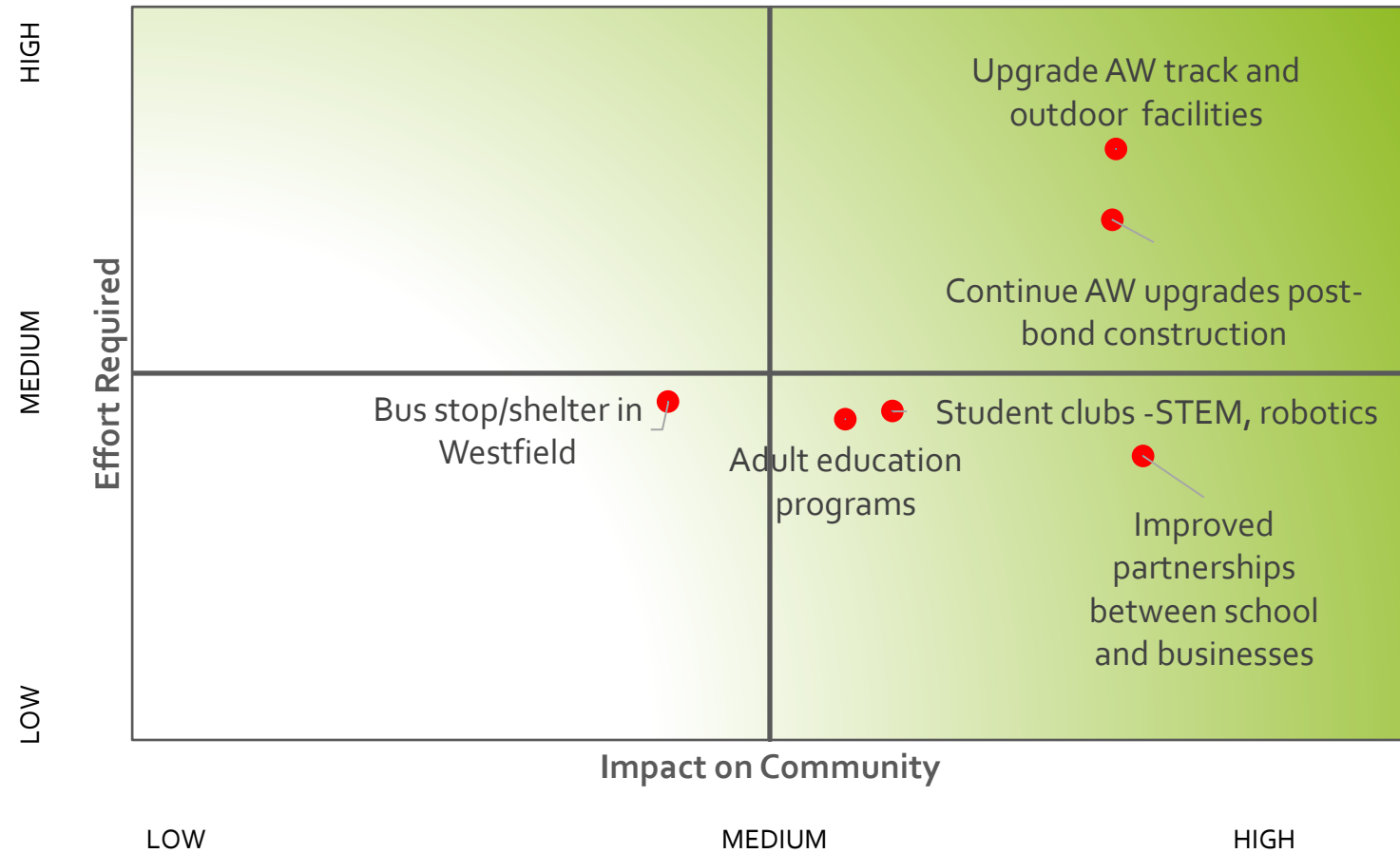
Heart & Soul Statement: Thriving, supportive businesses

Ranking of other ideas:

- More boutique shopping opportunities (16)
- Expand options at farmers market (15)
- Programs and classes to help owners with business skills (11)

Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statements: Commitment to Education



Community Roundtable Results

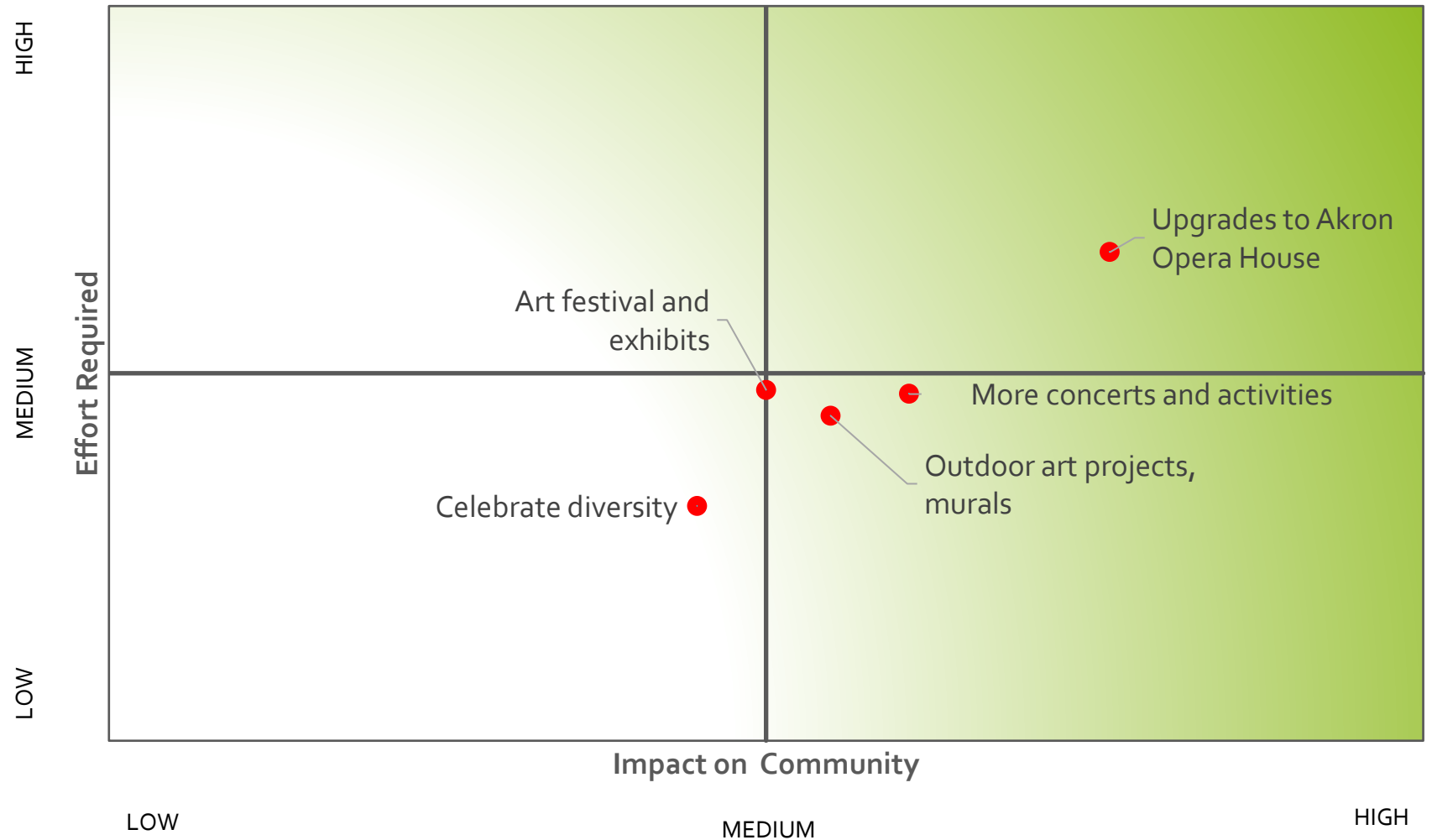
Heart & Soul Statement: Commitment to Education

Ranking of other ideas:

- Attract/retain new teachers (28)
- After school programs for students (23)
- ISU extension programs (10)
- Student/community leadership team (9)
- Recognize students for achievements (7)
- Community education program/leader (6)
- Provide transportation for out-of-town students for activities (5)
- Book drive or exchange (4)

Community Roundtable results

Heart & Soul Statement: Vibrant Arts and Culture



Community Roundtable Results

Heart & Soul Statement: Vibrant Arts & Culture

Ranking of other ideas:

- Expand or upgrade library (15)
- Community band or instrument ensembles (14)
- Tour of homes/neighborhoods (11)
- Sidewalk art challenge (9)

Next Steps

- Add formatting to report
- Share with roundtable attendees and organizations
- Post on Facebook for additional input
- Create report/timeline for project ideas for organizations who could take the lead