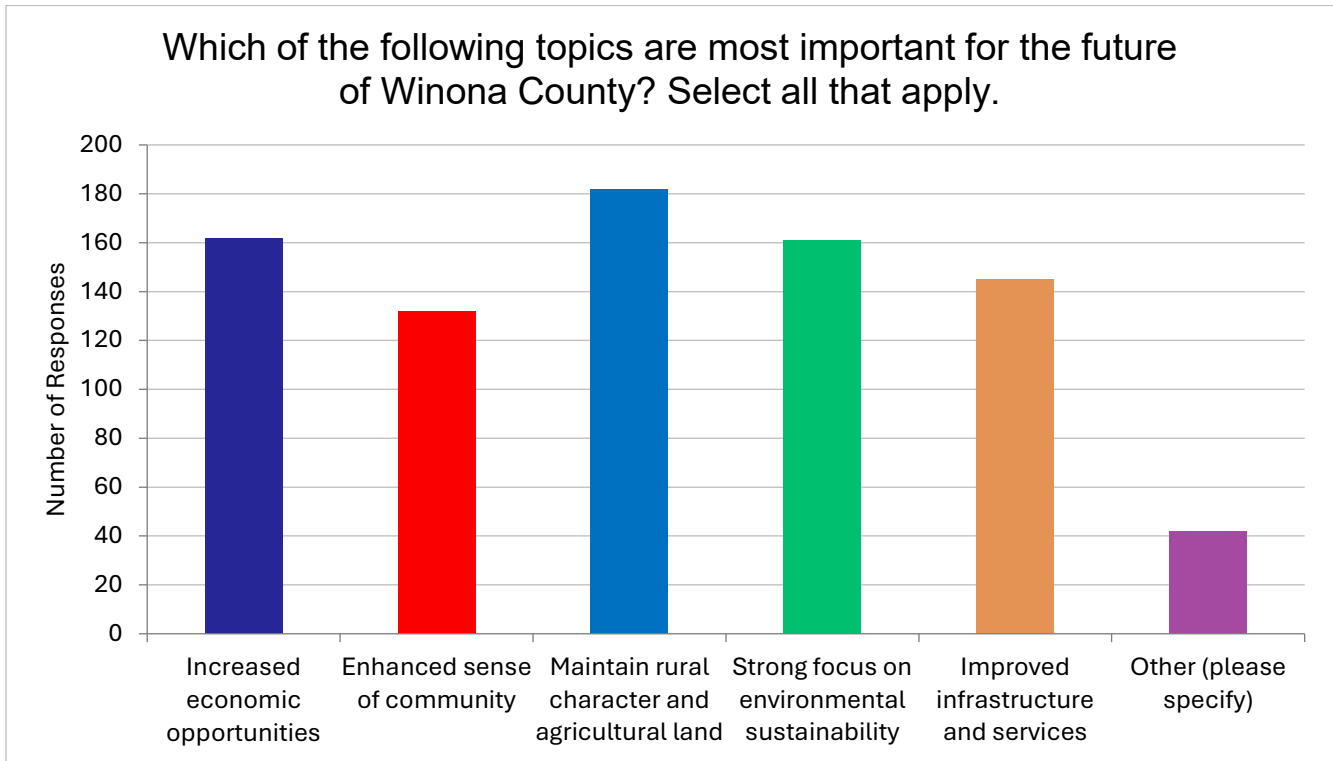


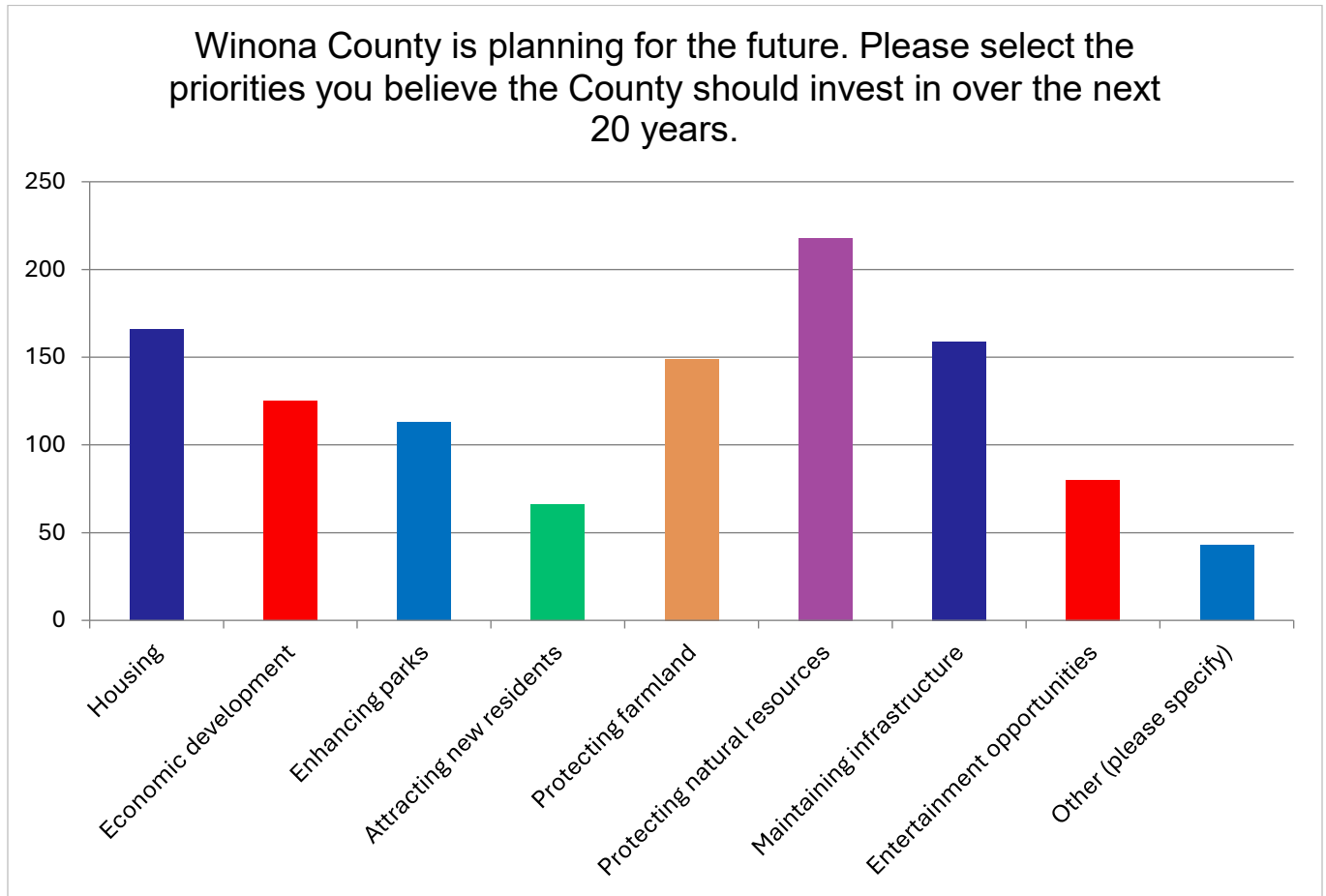
(Q4) Which of the following topics are most important for the future of Winona County? Select all that apply.



The topic that received the most votes was “maintain rural character and agricultural land,” followed by “increased economic opportunities,” and “strong focus on environmental sustainability.” These topics were selected by more than 50% of respondents. All topics (excluding “other”) were selected by 43% or more of respondents. Answers to the “other” option included safe drinking water, social and economic resources that are accessible to a diverse population, fiscal responsibility, limited government, road conditions, and affordable housing.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

(Q5) Winona County is planning for the future. Please select the priorities you believe the County should invest in over the next 20 Years.



The priority that received the most votes was “protecting natural resources,” followed by “housing” and “maintaining infrastructure.” These priorities were selected by more than 50% of respondents. “Protecting farmland” was close behind, and was selected by 48.4% of respondents. Answers to the “other” option included schools, affordability, recreational amenities, animal agriculture regulations, water quality, and recreational amenities.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

(Q7) What is one event, recreational opportunity, or community amenity that you enjoyed in another community that you wish was in Winona County?



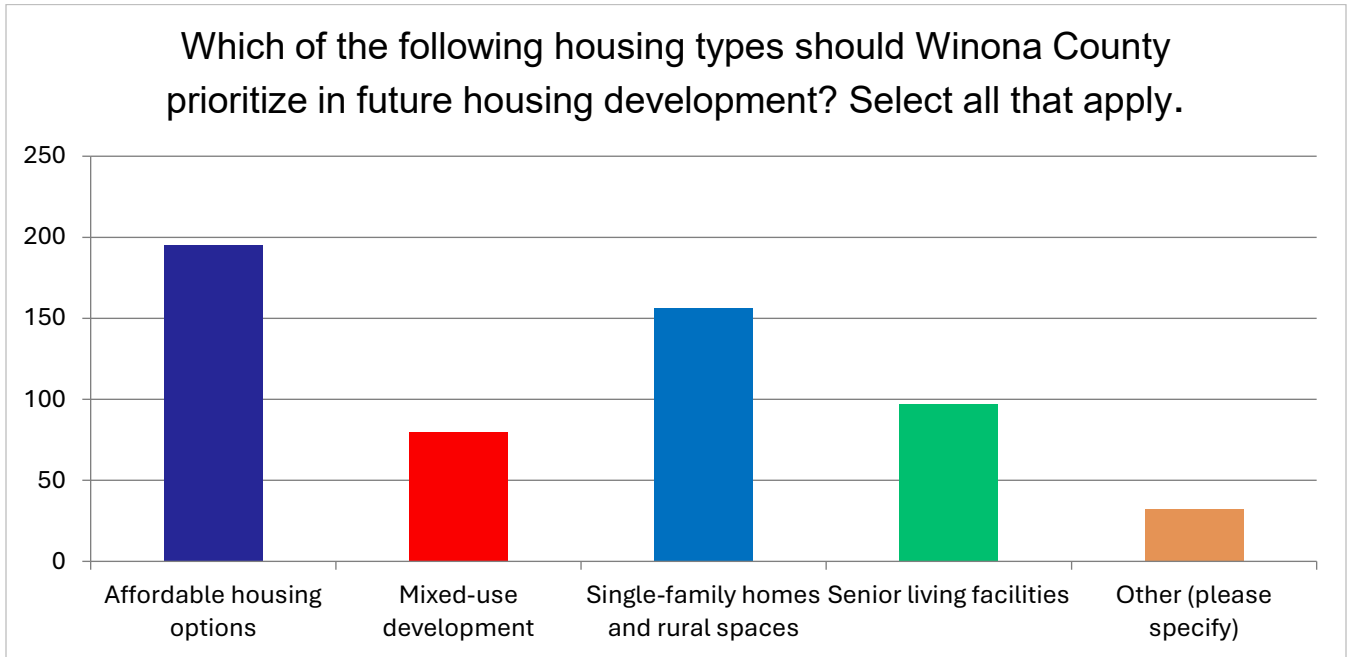
The following themes were prevalent in the answers to this open response question:

- **More Options for Year-Round Indoor and Outdoor Recreation:** Hiking trails, skiing trails, bicycle trails, arboretum, camping, community center
- **Year-Round Recreation for Children:** Splash pad, community center, children’s museum, indoor theme park, indoor playgrounds
- **Expand Current Community Events:** Steamboat Days, farmers markets, Winona County Fair
- **Enhance Opportunities to Enjoy Mississippi River Waterfront:** Amenities for boaters, river-focused tourism opportunities, provide additional public access to the water, more welcoming and accessible shoreline.
- **Events that Connect People to Agriculture:** Breakfast at the farm, dairy-focused events, trade shows
- **Utilize Existing Public Spaces for Community Events:** Host events in existing downtowns and parks, cultural events and celebrations, recreation classes, free music, free movies in parks
- **Expand Dining and Retail Options:** Local restaurants, food trucks, more diversity in food options, supper clubs, shopping mall, utilize historic buildings for businesses

All responses to this question can be found in Appendix A: All Open Response Answers.

Housing

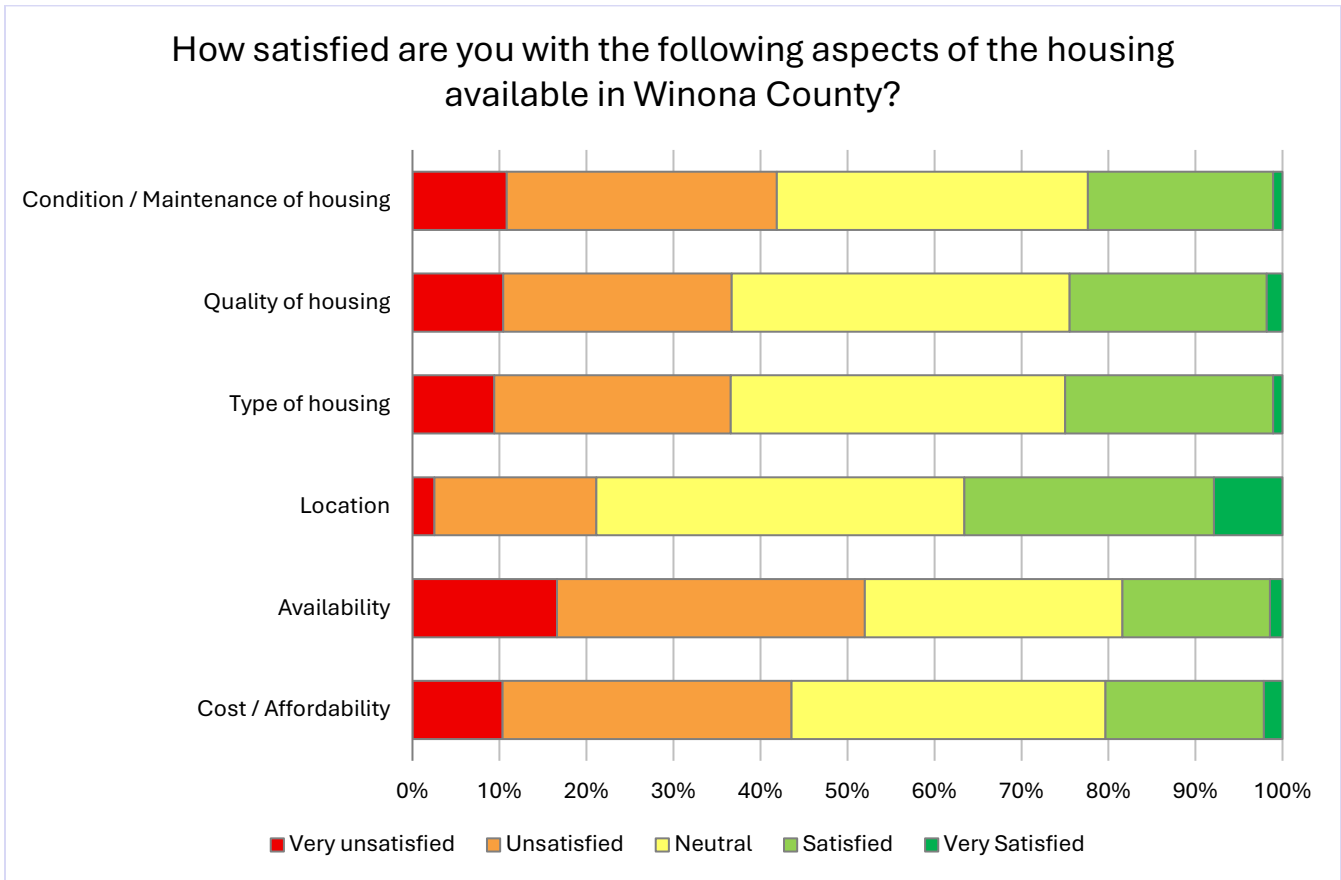
(Q8) Which of the following housing types should Winona County prioritize in future housing development? Select all that apply.



Survey respondents selected affordable housing options as the housing type that should be most prioritized in future development, followed by single-family homes and rural spaces. Both of these categories were selected as a priority for future housing development by more than half of survey respondents. Responses submitted under the “other” option included opposing opinions on affordable housing and how it should be defined and deployed, where housing development should take place (not in the bluffs, near grocery stores), reducing regulations to allow for the renovation of existing properties, and letting the market determine housing types.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

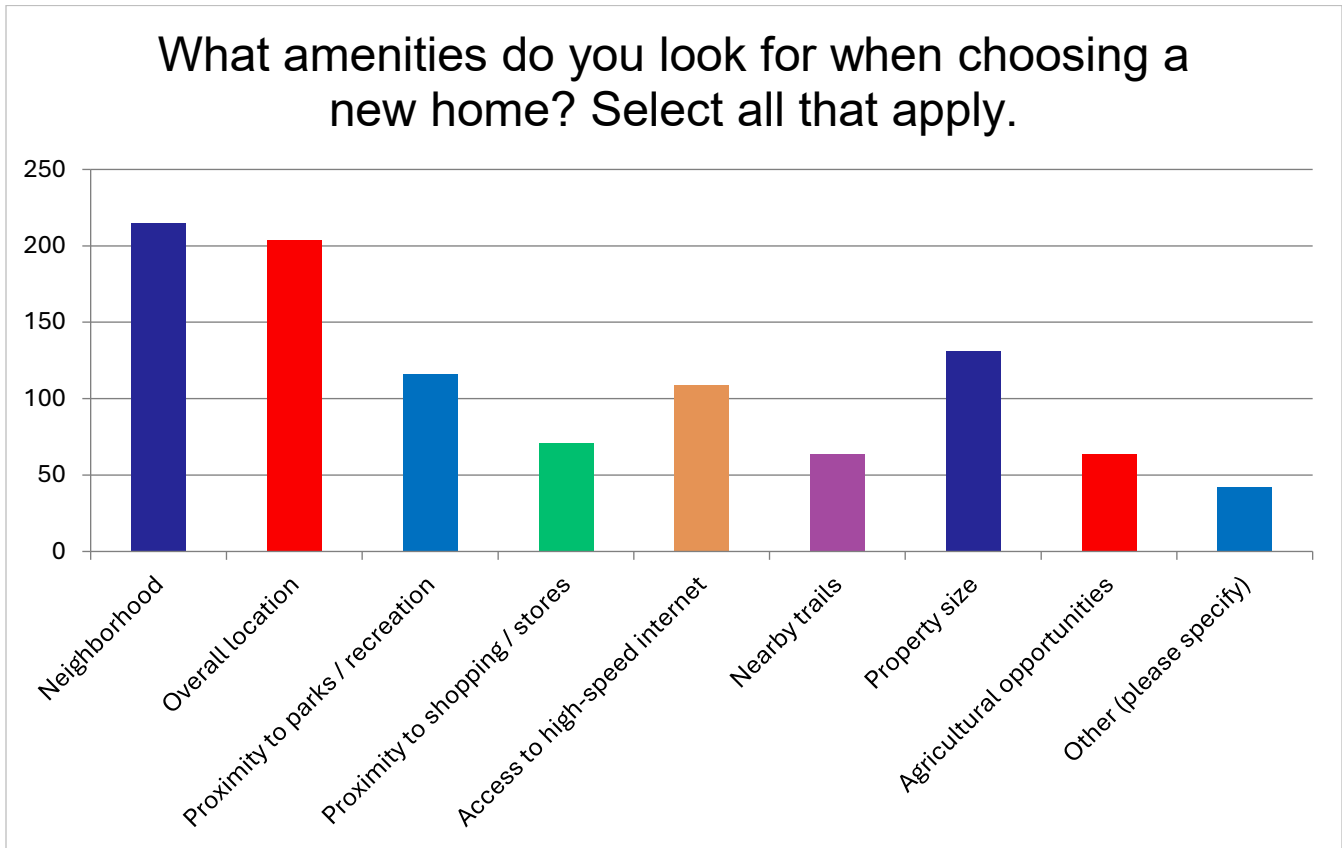
(Q9) How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the housing available in Winona County?



The aspect of housing that respondents are most satisfied with is location. 35.7% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the location of housing. Respondents are least satisfied with the availability and cost/affordability of housing, which is consistent with responses to the previous question: (Q8) Which of the following housing types should Winona County prioritize in future housing development? Select all that apply.

Respondents that selected “unsure” are excluded from this graph and analysis.

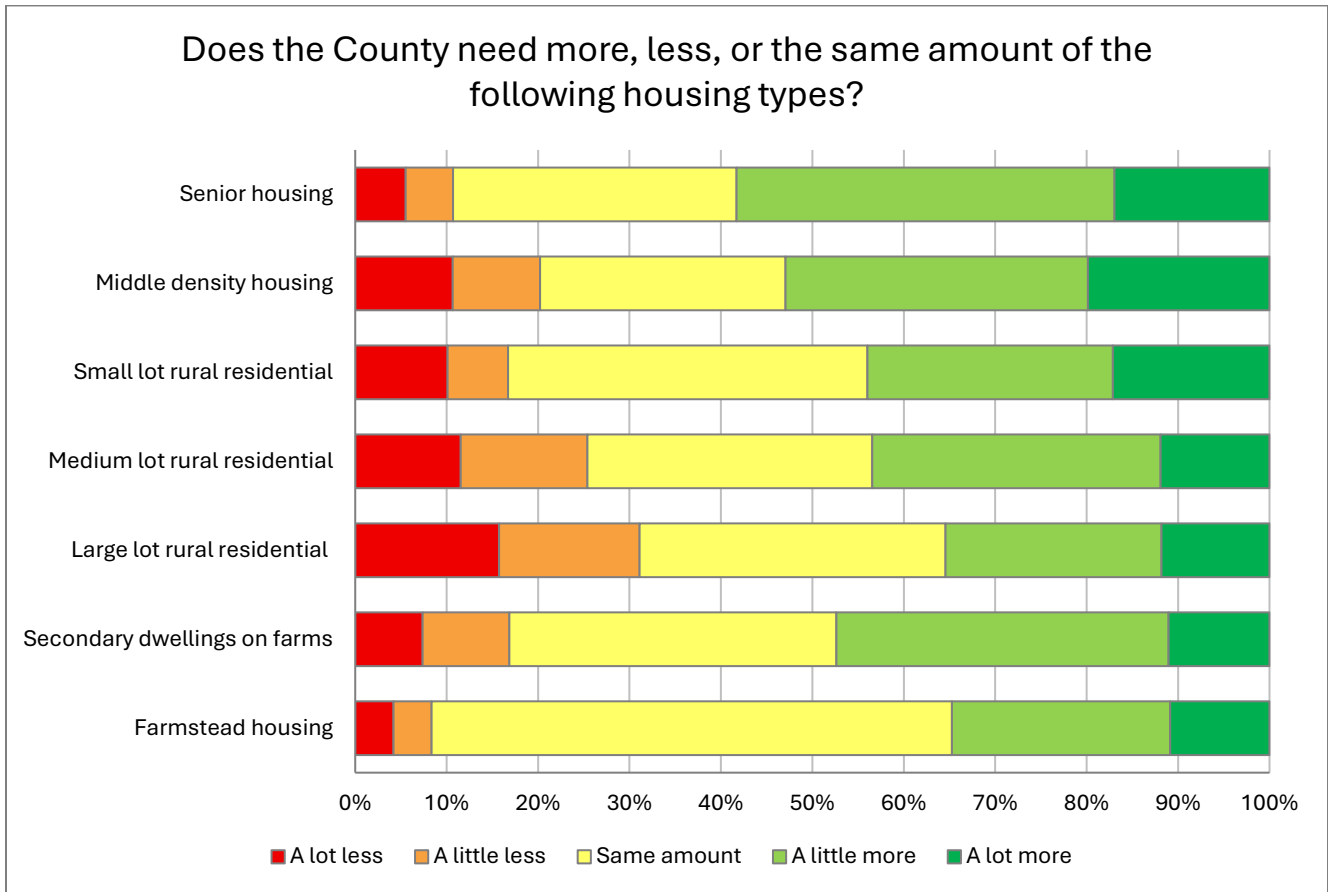
(Q10) What amenities do you look for when choosing a new home? Select all that apply.





Community survey respondents prioritize neighborhood and overall location when choosing a new home. More than 68% of respondents selected each of these amenities. The amenities that survey respondents look for the least are nearby trails and agricultural opportunities. Only 21.6% of respondents selected these amenities. Responses submitted under the “other” option included proximity to employment and schools, the condition of the property and neighboring properties, cost (including taxes), safety, accessibility, and condition of nearby infrastructure.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

(Q11) Does the County need more, less, or the same amount of the following housing types?



Descriptions and photos were provided for each housing type listed in the survey. A table with those descriptions and photos is below:

Housing Type and Description (If Provided)	Photo
Senior Housing	
Middle Density Housing (duplexes, townhomes, etc.)	

Small Lot Rural Residential (less than 1 acre)



Medium Lot Rural Residential (1-3 acres)



Large Lot Rural Residential (3 acres or more, not farmland)

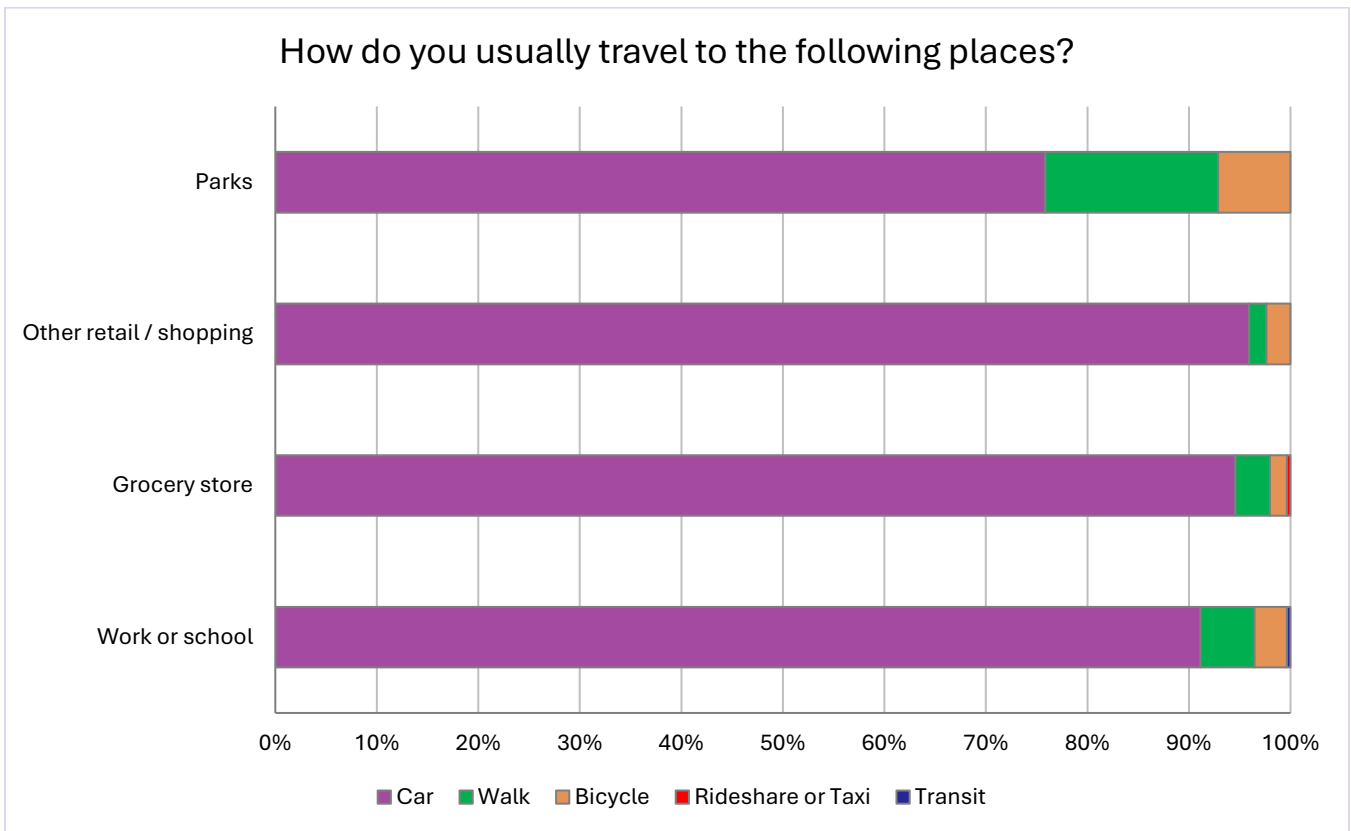


Community survey respondents believe that the county needs more senior housing, followed by middle density housing and secondary dwellings on farms. There were no categories for which a majority of respondents selected “a lot less” or “a little less,” however the housing type that received the most “a lot less” and “a little less” votes was large lot residential. This category was also the least favored in terms of additional housing.

Respondents that selected “unsure” are excluded from this graph and analysis.

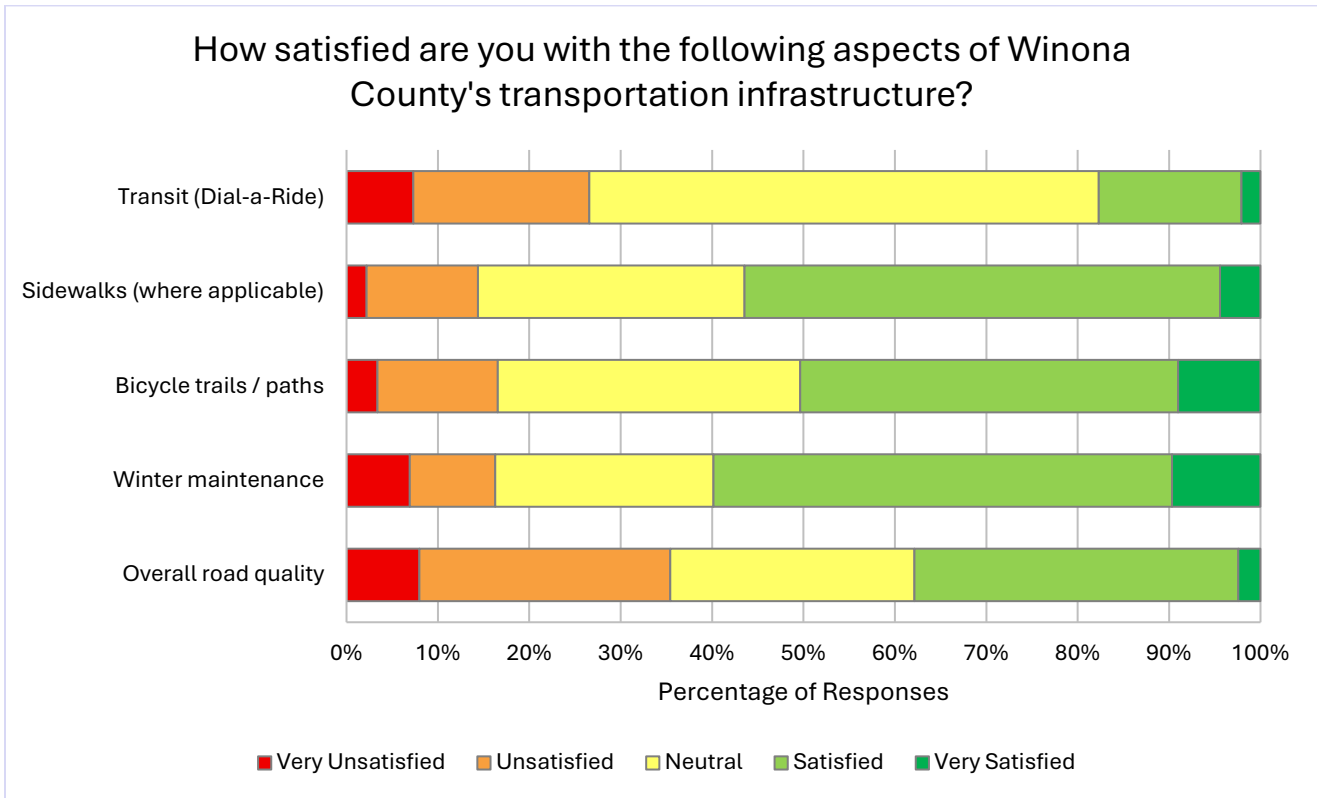
Transportation

(Q12) How do you usually travel to the following places?



Most survey respondents travel to parks, other retail/shopping, grocery stores, and work or school by car. The destination with the largest share of active transportation (walk and bicycle) is parks. Very few respondents regularly use rideshare or taxi or transit to get to their destinations.

(Q14) How satisfied are you with the following aspects of Winona County's transportation infrastructure?

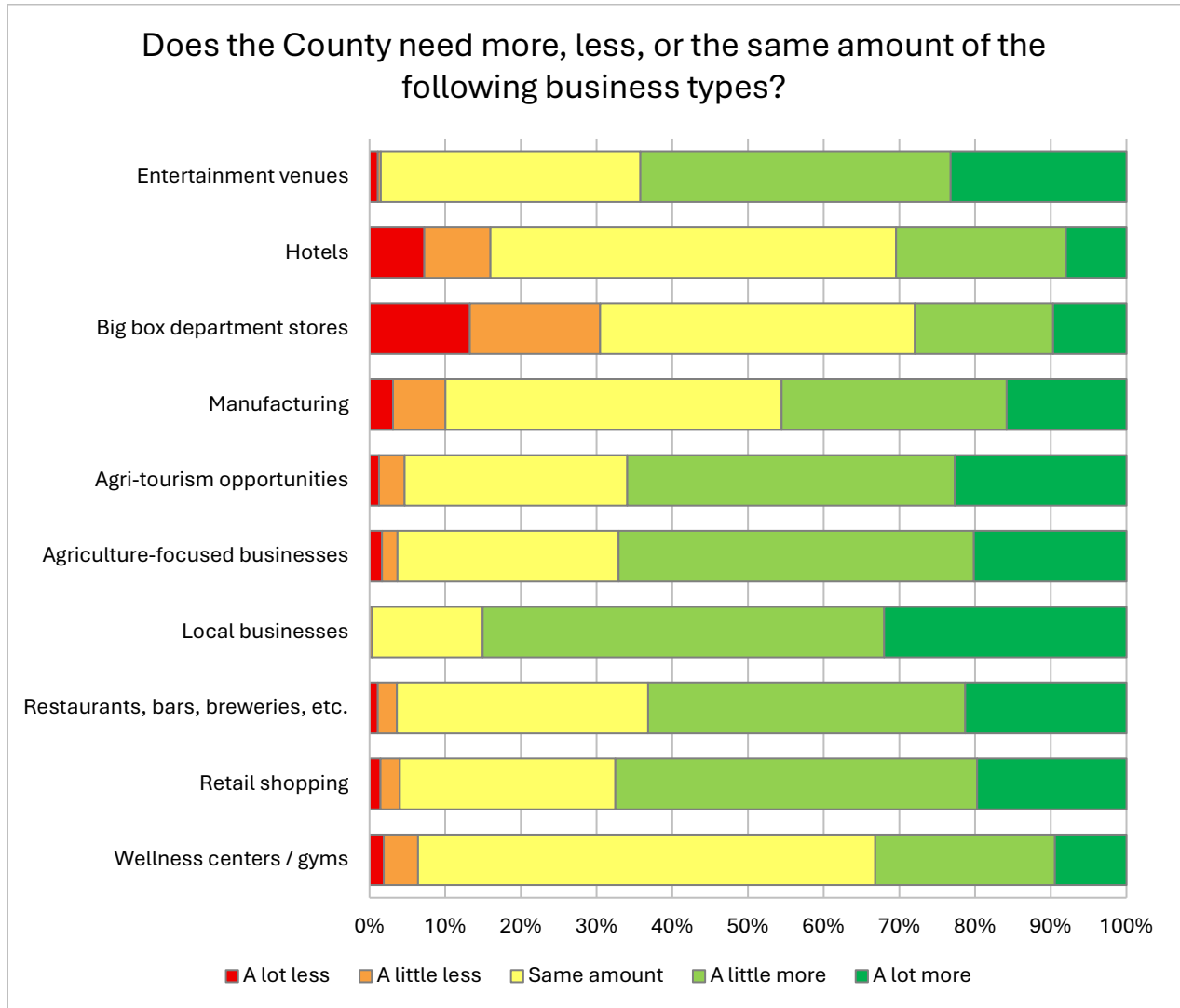


Respondents are most satisfied with winter maintenance and sidewalks in Winona County. More than 50% of respondents are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with these aspects of transportation. Respondents are least satisfied with transit (dial-a-ride) and overall road quality.

Respondents that selected “unsure” are excluded from this graph and analysis.

Economic Development

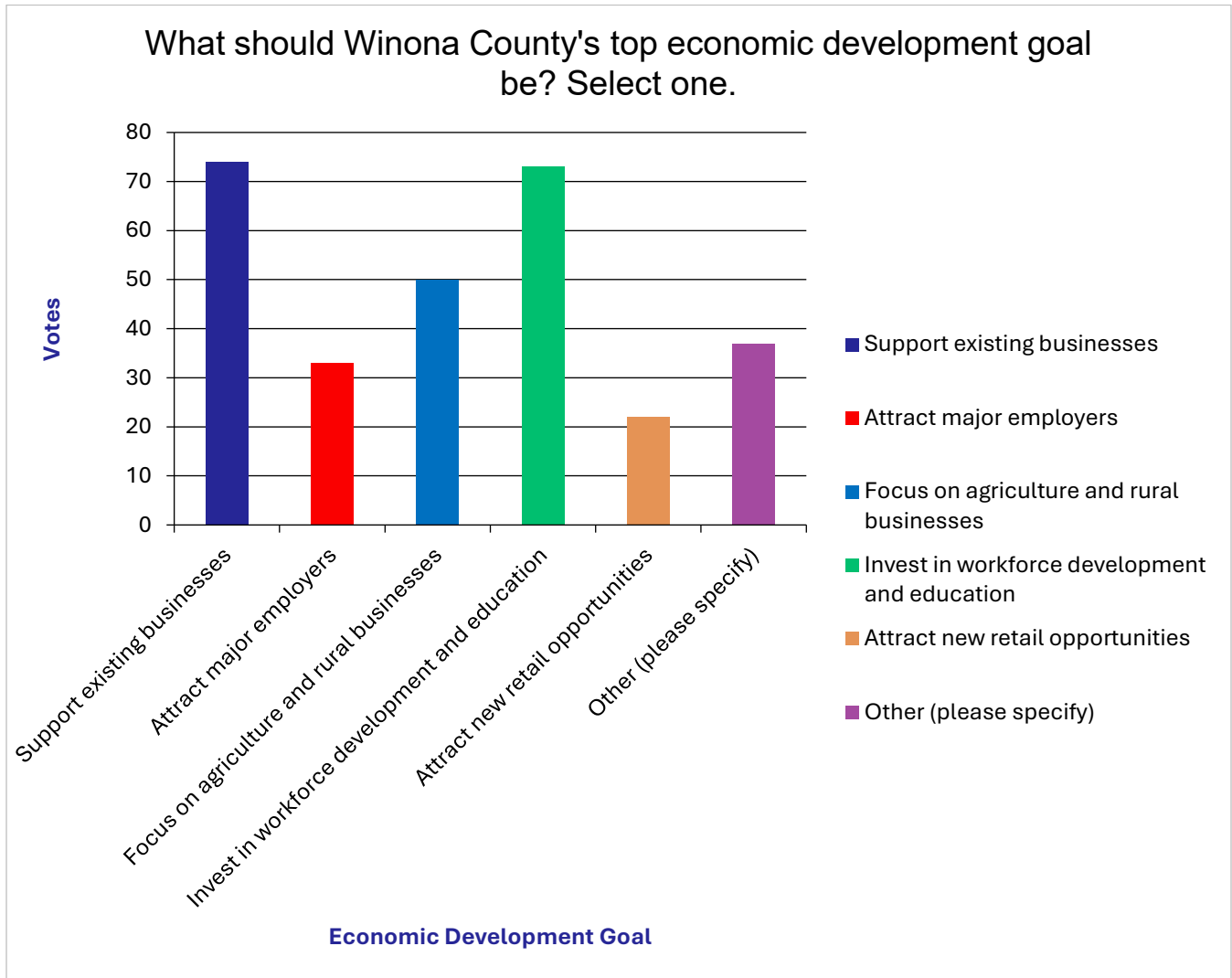
(Q15) Does the county need more, less, or the same amount of the following business types?



Community survey respondents believe that Winona County need more local businesses. 83.9% of respondents selected that the county need “a little more” or “a lot more” local businesses. Big box department stores were least favored by respondents.

Respondents that selected “unsure” are excluded from this graph and analysis.

(Q16) What should Winona County's top economic development goal be?
Select one.

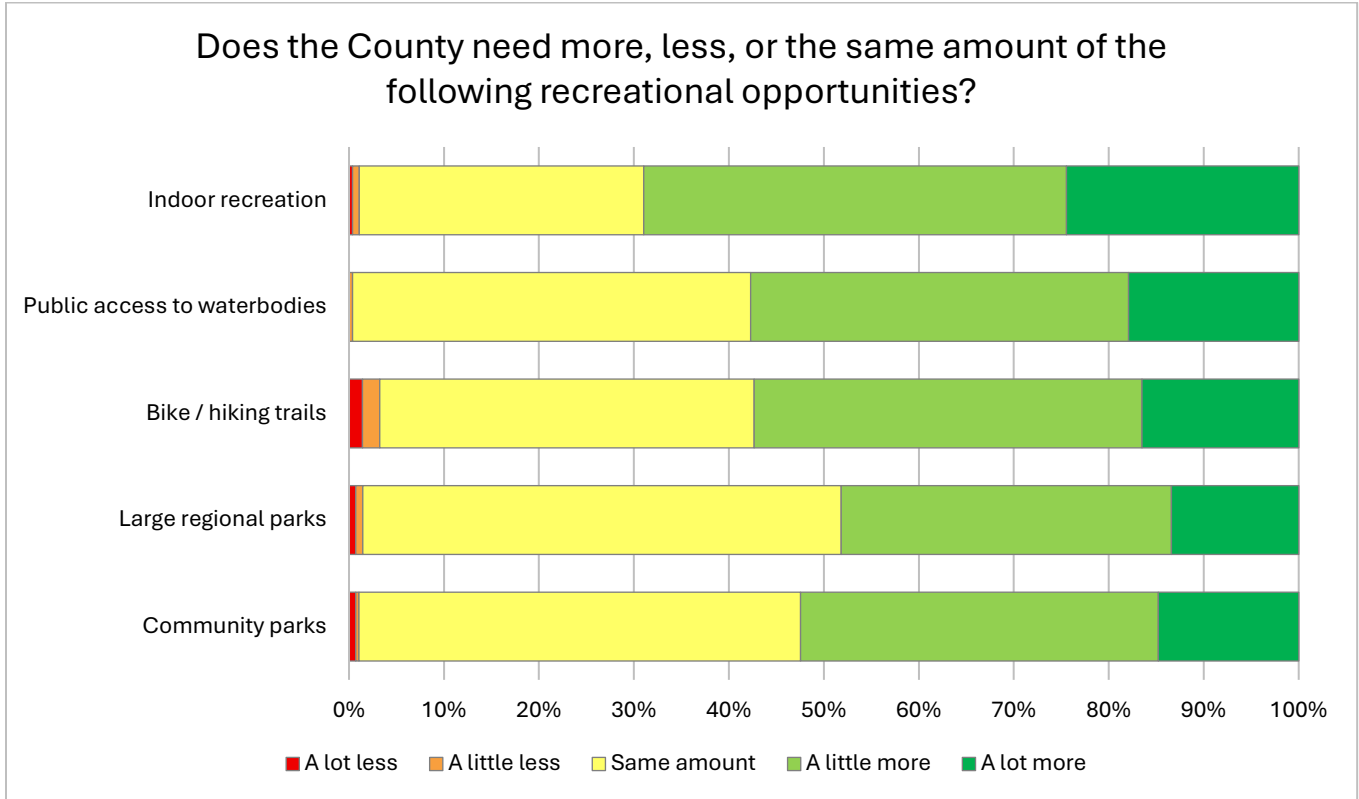


The largest number of respondents selected “supporting existing businesses” and “invest in workforce development and education” as Winona County’s top economic development goals. “Attract new retail opportunities” received the fewest votes. Responses submitted under “other” included prioritizing multiple goals, protecting natural resources, attracting entrepreneurs, and housing development.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

Natural Resources and Recreation

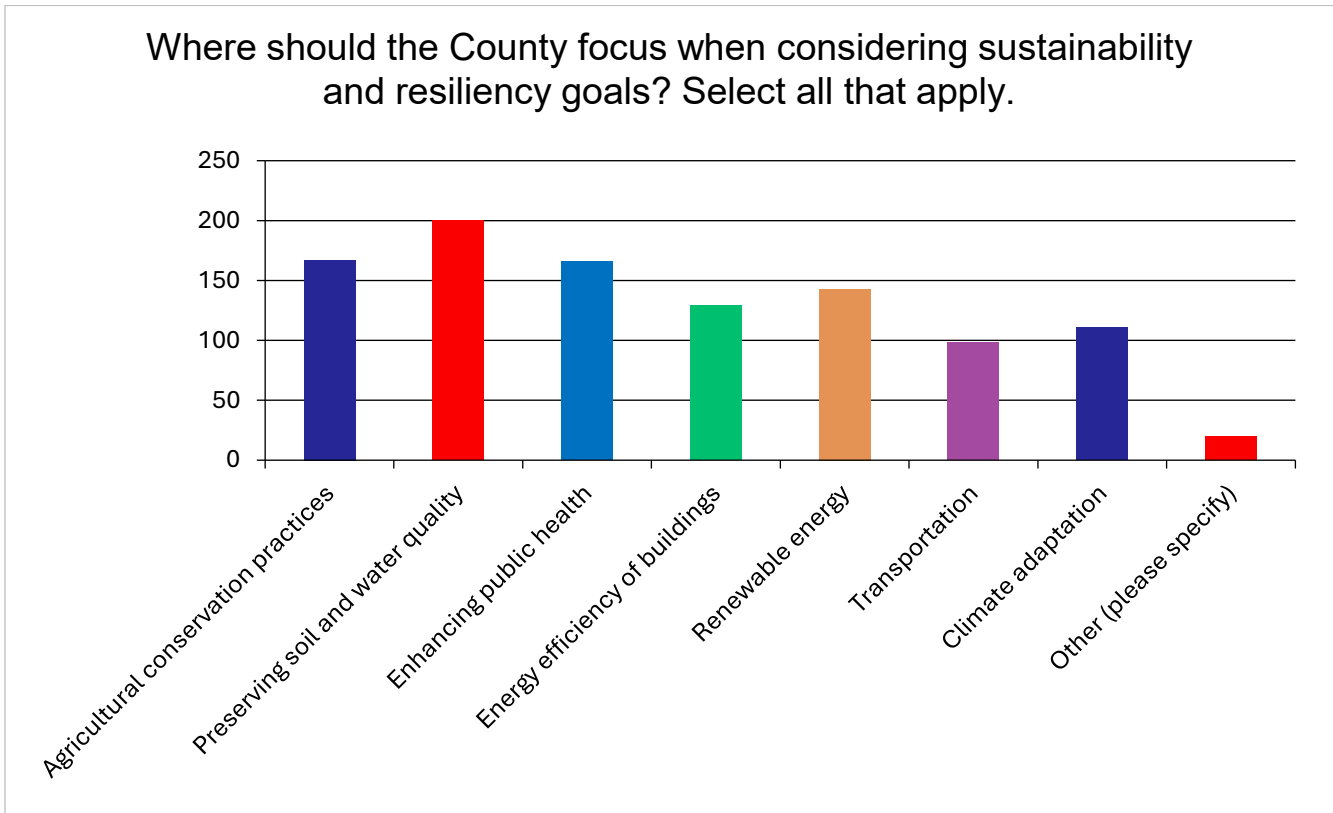
(Q17) Does the county need more, less, or the same amount of the following recreational opportunities?



Over 65% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Winona County needs more indoor recreation opportunities. 50% or more of respondents agree or strongly agree that Winona County needs more public access to waterbodies, bike/hiking trails, and community parks. This indicates that expanding recreational opportunities is important for the Winona County community.

Respondents that selected “unsure” are excluded from this graph and analysis.

(Q18) Where should the County focus when considering sustainability and resiliency goals? Select all that apply.



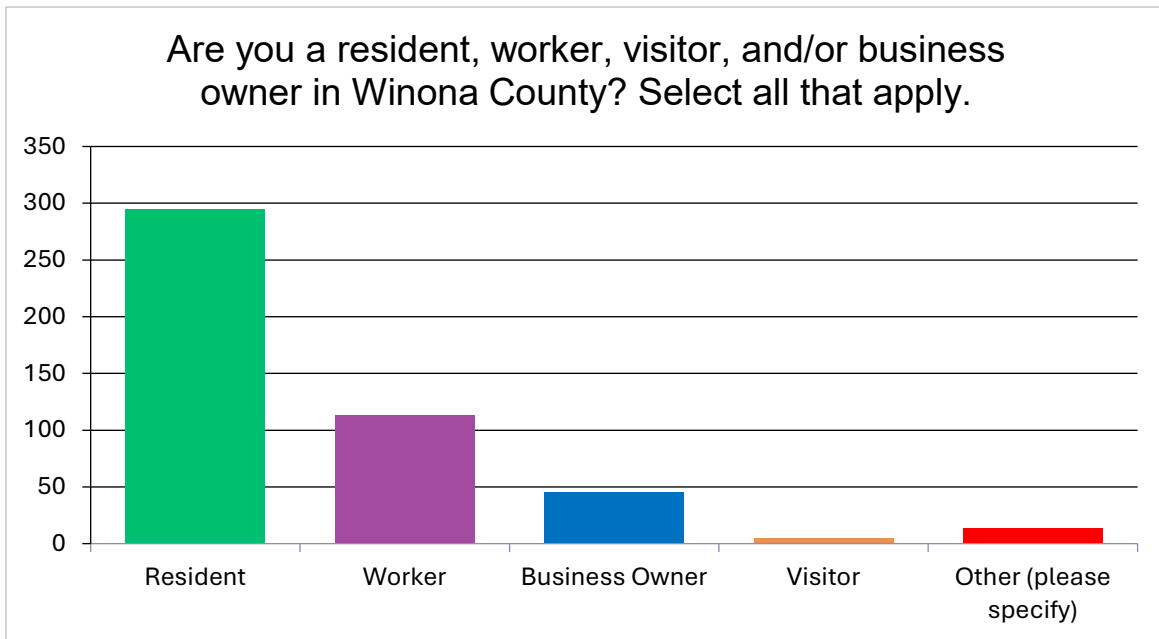
The focus that received the most votes was preserving soil and water quality, followed by agricultural conservation practices, enhancing public health, and renewable energy. All of these focuses were selected by more than 50% of survey respondents. The 20 responses to the “other” option mentioned sewage management, agricultural and soil conservation practices, enhancing recreational and natural spaces, sustainability education, and stormwater management.

A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

Demographic Questions

The community survey included a series of demographic questions to determine what portions of the Winona County population were reached by the community survey. Experiences and identities influence an individual’s needs and investment priorities. For example, young families have different needs and perspectives than retirees. As part of the community survey, we attempted to gain diverse perspectives, and demographic questions are a method of determining what community perspectives are included in responses.

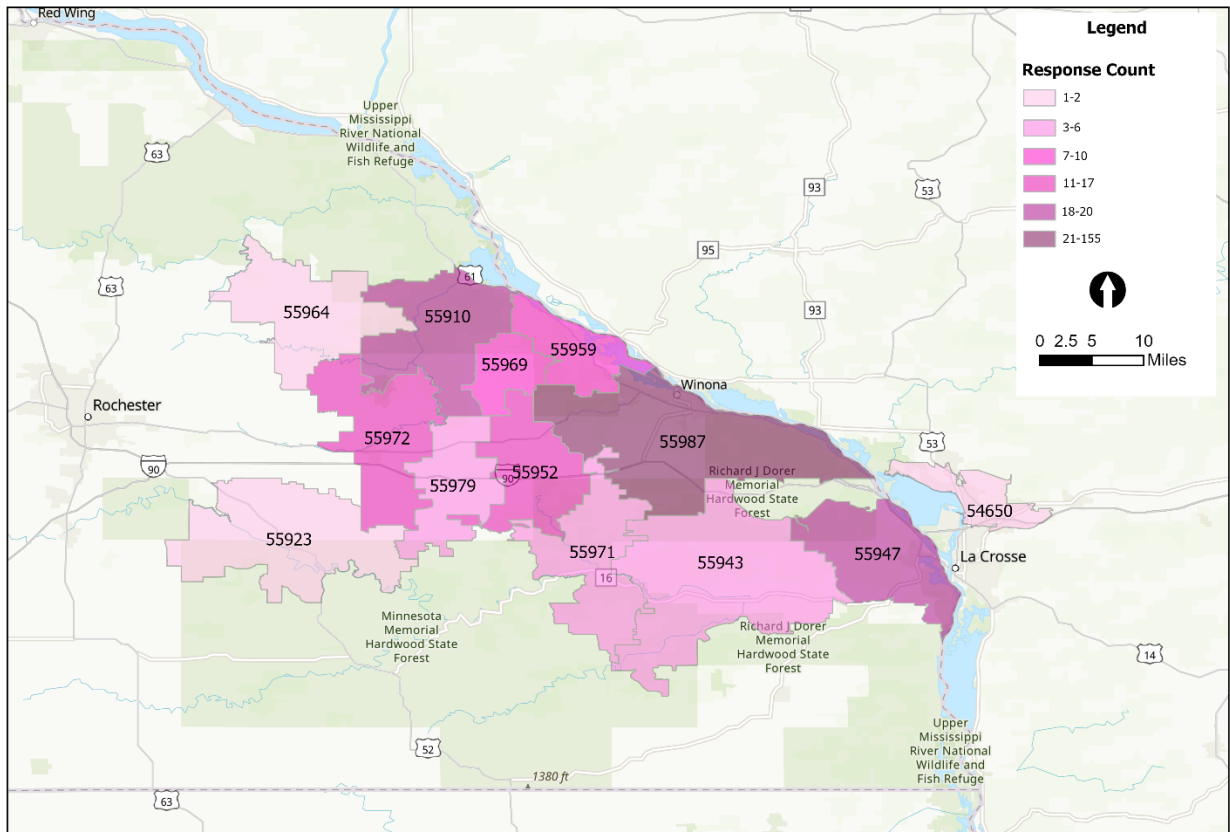
(Q1) Are you a resident, worker, visitor, and/or business owner in Winona County? Select all that apply.



Most survey respondents (94%) were residents of Winona County. 36% of respondents were workers in Winona County. Respondents were able to select multiple answers to best represent their affiliation(s) to the county.

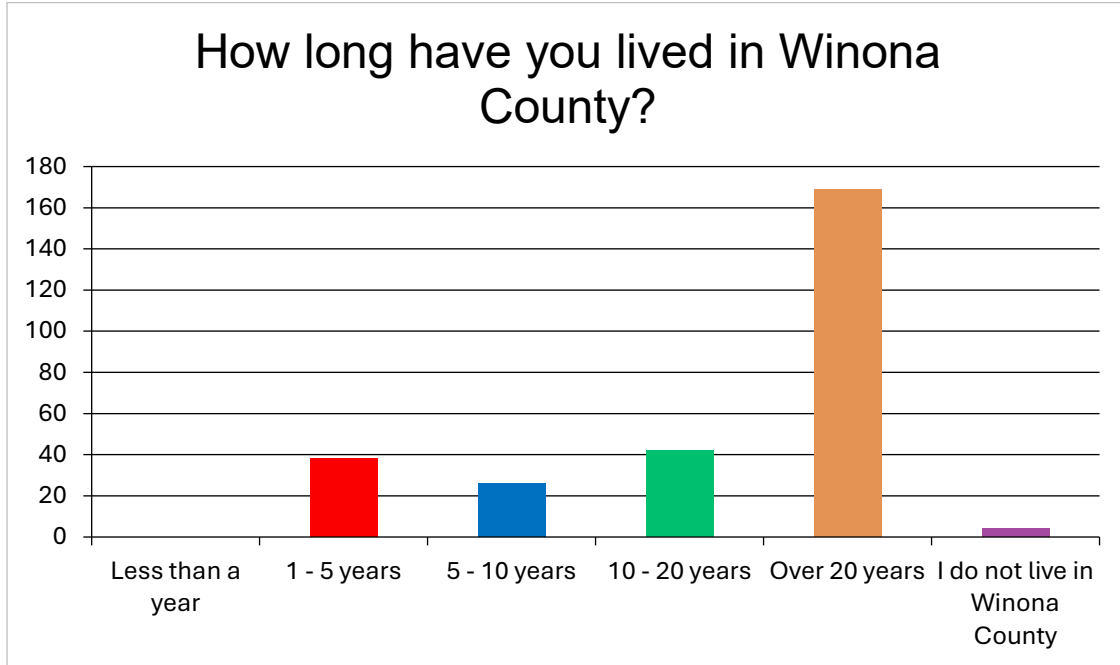
Those that selected “other” included farmers and farm workers, part-time residents, property owners, college students, and volunteers. A full list of “other” responses is available in Appendix B: “Other” Responses.

(Q22) What is your ZIP code?



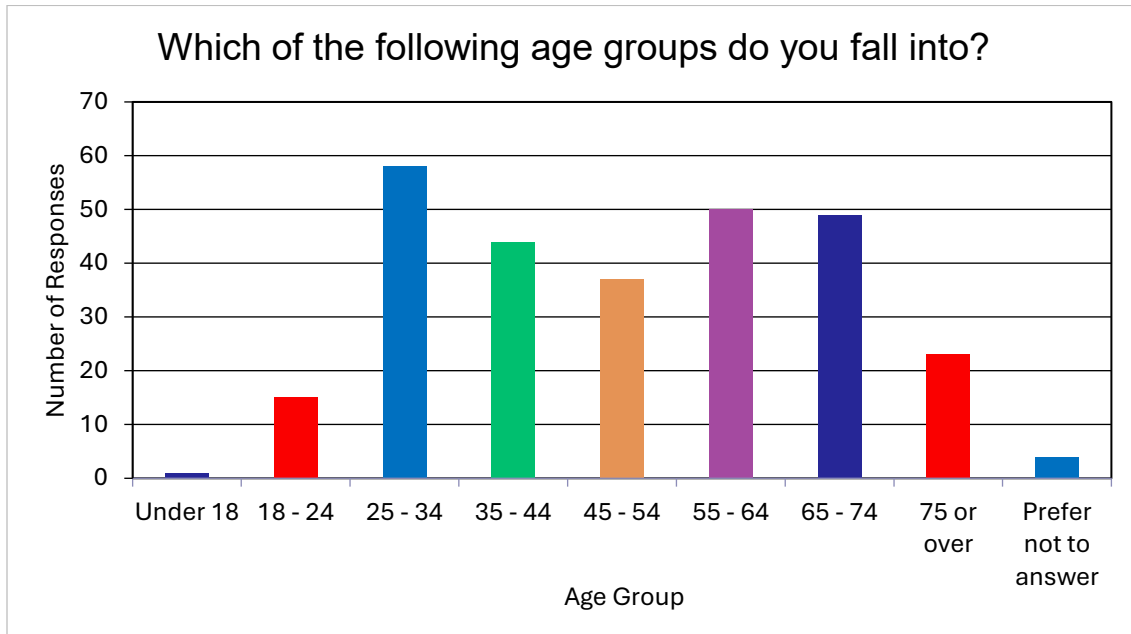
Residents of thirteen different ZIP codes within and near Winona County responded to the community survey. The ZIP code with the most responses (155 responses) was 55987, which includes part or all of the Cities of Goodview, Winona and Stockton, and Wiscoy, Warren, Willsdale, Homer, Richmond, Pleasant Hill, and New Hartford Townships. The only ZIP codes within Winona County for which no responses were received were 55962 or 55925.

(Q23) How long have you lived in Winona County?



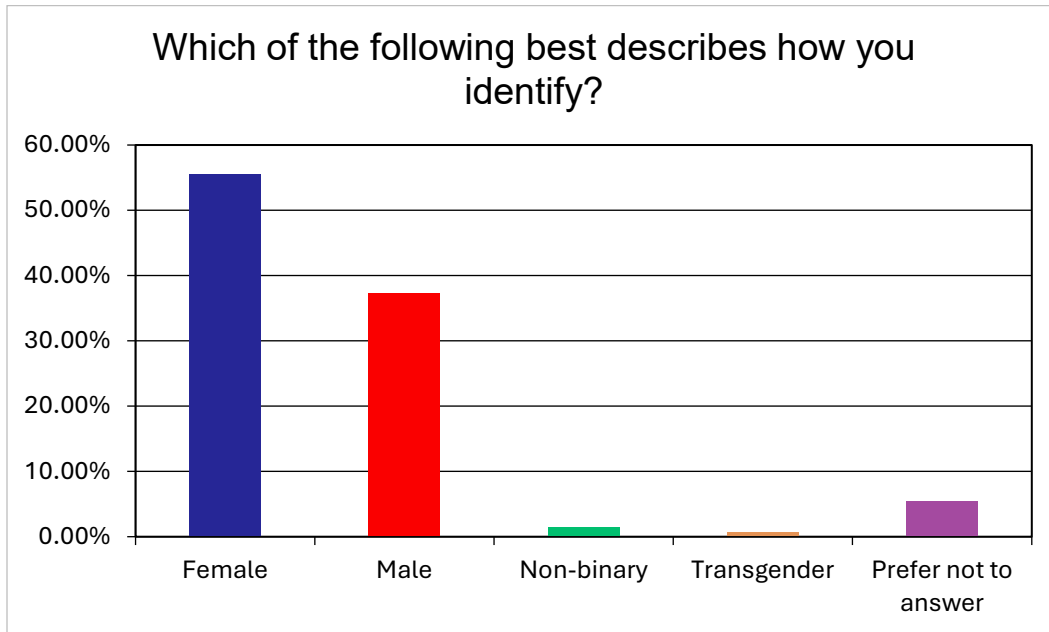
Most community survey respondents have lived in Winona County for over 20 years. No respondents have lived in Winona County for less than a year.

(Q24) Which of the following age groups do you fall into?



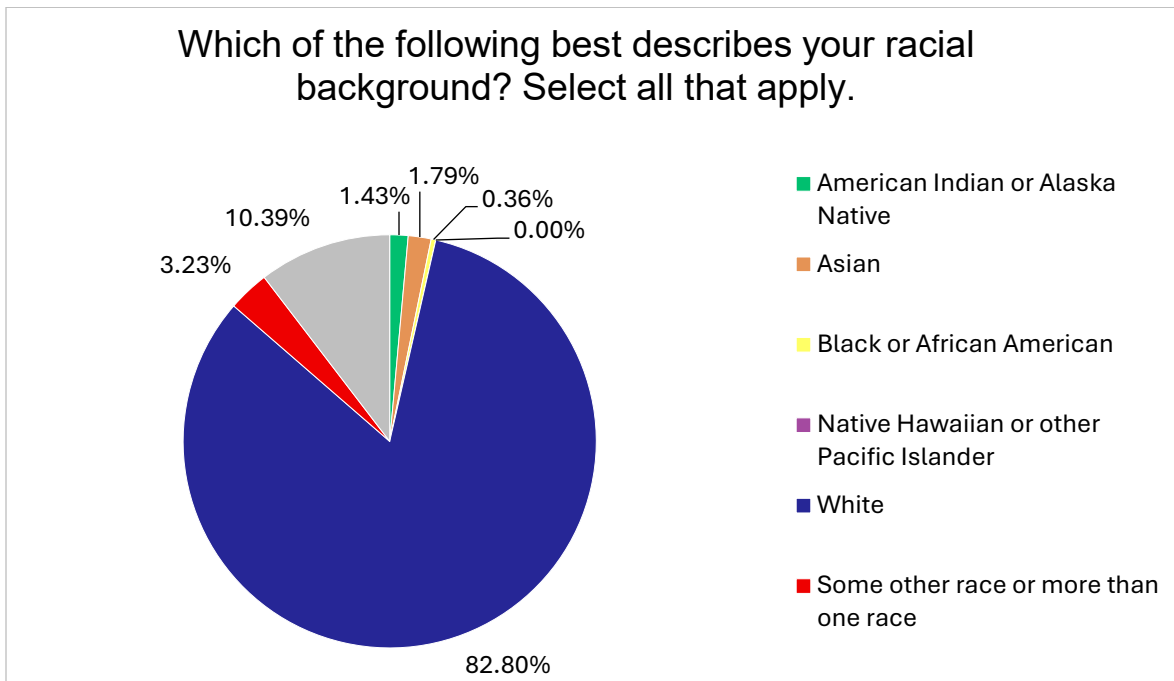
Winona County stakeholders of a variety of ages took the community survey and shared their thoughts on issues and opportunities in Winona County. The most common age group was 25-34 years old, followed by 55-64 years old, and 65-74 years old.

(Q25) Which of the following best describes how you identify?



The most common gender identity of respondents was female (55.6% of respondents). The second most common identity of respondents is male (37.3%).

(Q26) Which of the following best describes your racial background? Select all that apply.



A large majority of community survey respondents identify as white. Other racial identities of respondents are Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, and some other race or more than one race. 10.4% of respondents preferred not to answer this question.

(Q27) What city or township do you live in?

Responses to the community survey were received from many different jurisdictions within Winona County, as well as some jurisdictions outside of the county. Responses represented 16 out of 19 townships and 11 out of 13 cities in Winona County. Due to the open response nature of the question and the overlap between names of townships and cities within the county, some jurisdictions were combined when “city” or “township” was missing from the answer (ex. Utica Township or City). The most common places of residence for respondents were the City of Winona, Norton Township and Warren Township.

Note: This question was added to the survey after it was opened. Those who responded to the survey early did not have the opportunity to answer this question. This analysis represents the portion of respondents that answered the question.

Municipality	Number of Respondents
City of Winona	64
Norton Township	12
Warren Township	11
Dresbach Township	10
St. Charles Township or City	8
New Hartford Township	5
Rollingstone Township or City	5
City of Stockton	4
Utica Township or City	4
City of Goodview	3
Hart Township	3
Hillsdale Township	3
Homer Township	3
Mount Vernon Township	3
Richmond Township	3
Wilson Township	3
City of La Crescent	2
City of Lewiston	2
City of Altura	1
City of Dakota	1
Elba Township	1
Minnesota City	1
Onalaska, WI	1

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Saratoga Township	1
Simon	1
Winona County	1
City of Winona/Wilson Township	1
Wiscoy Township	1

Appendix A: All Open Response Answers

(Q2) What is One Thing Winona County Should be Proud of?

All Responses

Good farmers

I like this town, it's good for raise our kids. Friendly people, peaceful town.

Peaceful place, I love nature and the kindness of the people.

I don't know, get my graduation!

It's a peaceful place. I like it.

Health and education

Continuing helping everybody

The country side

Hospital

Parks

Trees, nice, safe, parks

Winona County outdoors - walking, parks, fishing, hiking

It's a very calm place to live as a family

It's a very calm place to live as a family

The parks, hospitals

I like walk - I like there is no cars close to lots of trees. Far from other people

Everything here is beautiful and everybody should be proud

Its location is pretty.

Winona is a place that we can live safely in.

No trouble or crime

Agricultural

We have the privilege of living in a beautiful part of the state and country with the great Mississippi river and the surrounding blufflands. This is a good area to raise a family and enjoy all the opportunities to enjoy so many different aspects of outdoors.

Beautiful bluffs & river

Beauty

It's outdoor recreation

History

Community

The beautiful scenery of the two lakes next to each other

Beautiful town and take good care

The rivers, lakes, nature

The location

all the services available

The work in the country the landscapes

The farms

Its people

schools

The farms The County fair Public Health

Project Fine

Its community Steamboat Days

That I can find a job

That is very safe and quiet

the natural beauty of the environment, maintenance of parks, bike trails, public forums, emergency services, cordial police in most cases, great fire department

The families and businesses that support one another within the community.

the number of buildings destroyed so we can have parking lots downtown

Bluffs, lakes, rivers, strong communities,

It's outdoor recreation activities

It's natural and historical beauty.

We are growing when it comes to activities for individuals and families to do in the downtown area

Access to natural spaces.

Outdoor recreation

The beauty of the bluffs.

Beautiful landscapes.

The huge variety and number of volunteers.

I feel proud to live in Winona County because I like the medical care and that we have a Project FINE with Interpreters, and it's a small peaceful quiet town.

I feel good here, I have work.

Peaceful place. I love to live here. I feel safe. It is so green.

Hospitals

Keeping our roads paved and in good condition!!

Arts/community events

The many locally owned businesses

Our natural beauty

The paths around the lakes, Bloedows, Hurry Back Productions, and how the community always comes together to support each other

The arts and culture.

Natural beauty

beauty/river,bluffs, preservation of historic buildings

Rural and small town living. Low crime. Scenic area.

The bluff lands and working on keeping them

Scenery and Parks

limiting urban sprawl.

Scenery

Beautiful and reasonably safe.

The beauty and Winona health

Arts and Cultural activities

natural beauty

It's beauty and recreation opportunities.

Diversity in industry; Midwestern humble, hardworking residents

Awesome variety of arts/culture

Winona county should be proud of all the Parks and recreation trails for snowmobiles and ATVs and for people.. Winona County offers a lot to the residents that live here, Whitewater State Park, Farmers Community Park, the Winona county historical society building.

One thing? Natural Beauty

The people of the community.

Agriculture

Scenic beauty

Outdoor spaces. We have beautiful parks, trails, walking paths ect.

Bluffs, nature, farmland

Productive farming area. Beautiful recreation area.

Continued revitalization of downtown

All the old classic businesses. The beautiful riverfront. The beautiful lakes and parks

It's natural streams

Beautiful rural areas

breathtaking natural beauty

Our connection between the people in the city and the farmers in the land

Its scenery, preservation of history with growth & development simultaneously, the best community of people.

It should be proud of the parks, the river, safety, cleanliness, friendliness of residents

friendly weirdos

Natural beauty which gives opportunities

Support for residents

Historical landmarks and nature

Quaint downtown local owned businesses

Beautiful area, bluffs, river

All the opportunities to connect with nature

State land rivers the views

Natural Habitats

Beauty and variety of businesses

History, Mississippi River, The Lakes

Natural beauty

Its abundant natural resources

Beauty of the bluffs and protections for there preservation.

Beauty of the bluffs and river

Outdoor beautiful spaces

inclusivity in practise, not in word only, and the rule of law for ALL

Economic diversity and strength of the agricultural industry in Winona county. Wonderful place to live and raise a family.

It's history and heritage

Farming community

Winona County should be proud of the diversity of cultures and lifestyles of its residents. While agriculture is a large part of the lives of many county residents, there are many folks of different backgrounds who are attracted to Winona County for education, natural scenery, community, etc. Winona County seems to have a lot to offer to a variety of people, which is something worth celebrating.

It's generally just a cool city

The beauty it was given

Its beautiful location

The amount of outdoor recreational activities that are available

Natural beauty

I like that it's not overly developed like the cities or Rochester.

Winona County recycling program. Most communities do not have this.

Farm communities

History, many outdoors options, community.

It's sense of community and protecting natural resources and its most vulnerable people

Zoning for bluff land protection.

Citizen participation in government

The outdoor recreation

All of the outdoor opportunities - for all seasons.

The arts community.

Diversity

Our farming culture

Winona County should be proud of the way that agricultural businesses (farms, co-ops, implement dealers, etc.) have greatly contributed to the economy of the county. Farming keeps towns alive!

The history of Winona

beauty of landscape

Scenery

Sense of community. I feel like people really look out for each other in the county.

our community involvement

Green spaces, parks and nature preserves

The inclusive community.

Community involvement

River

Outdoor recreation: hiking, walking trails, water activities, etc

Winona county should be proud of its unique and beautiful countryside. From the Mississippi River valley to the rolling farmland; we are very lucky to live here.

All the people that volunteer their time and talents to help others.

Beautiful surroundings

Farm history

Winona County should be proud of it's family farms and beautiful landscape.

Beautiful scenery, dining options, public resources.

Its beauty

Winona County should be extremely proud of its agricultural industry and the fact that its farmers are recognized among the best in the state.

The terrain.

natural resources and beauty of the area

Its natural beauty and businesses

Its agriculture.

Farming

How beautiful it is!!!

rural lifestyle and heritage of traditional family farms

Not sure. A lot needs to be improved upon.

The river and lakes

Their work on getting rid of puppy mills. Still have a lot of work to do.

Not sure

Its natural beauty...but we need to capitalize on it

The views

Strong focus on environmental protections

Natural resources and agriculture

Natural beauty and developing more opportunities (recreational, etc) for visitors and residents. Mostly, it's in the city of Winona.

Beautiful bluffs. Magical river landscape.

The views

The environment and outdoor recreation

River and bluffs

Public safety

It's beautiful scenery and outdoor activities

Natural landscape

The bluffs and the river, being part of the driftless area.

It's beauty

Bluff country and historic buildings that are remaining.

Natural beauty.

Arts and culture

The bluffs

Recycling program

The natural beauty of the bluffs

Our beautiful scenery

Natural beauty of the area

Scenery

Our parks and lakes.

Our History and Our Beautiful natural surroundings

Preserving the environment

Safety of residents

It's involvement of citizens in policy making

Many opportunities for cultural, music, and recreational activities.

Diversity of environment and economic opportunities

Conservation of natural resources; beautiful and functional outdoor recreation spaces

Quality education

Natural beauty

It's agriculture

Friendliness of residents.

Clear bluff sight-lines

The natural beauty here. All the trees and water make the county beautiful and a great place to live.

Nice parks

Small town feel with lots of amenities. History and natural beauty.

It's strong community that comes together during times of need. I hope to see more community building initiatives in the future-- we're going to need them now more than ever.

the outdoor stuff and accessibility of it like the lake Lodge making things so affordable

Agriculture, manufacturing

Its unique topography--river valley, bluffs, beginnings of the great prairie.

The beauty

All the watersheds.

The outdoor opportunities such as the biking/hiking trail systems.

The beautiful lake parks and a safe and progressive community

It's beautiful natural beauty such as things like sugarloaf and the beautiful bluffs lakes and natural parks

Natural beauty

Ag community

Its landscape beauty and diversity (river/s, bluffs, oak savannahs, prairies and family farms).

no frac mining in Winona County

Small community

Geographic beauty .

Beauty of nature

Its natural beauty and access to that natural beauty

Natural beauty of the area.

Our natural resources.

The natural beauty and biodiversity we are fortunate to enjoy as part of the Driftless Area.

River, natural resources - beautiful landscape, strong non-profit network, investment in recreation infrastructure

Natural beauty

We are a small and passionate community.

Efficient County government. Good roads!

Rural Beauty

A culture of caring

The county is rich with diversity of its economy, natural resources, and population.

Views

Rural county commissioner

Strong youth programs and youth development opportunities - the focus on our future leaders in our community!

parks and green spaces

The Sheriff's department and dive rescue.

Overall quality and cleanliness of the roads and ditches.

Natural beauty.... hills,streams,trees, clean air.

Areas outside Winona are relatively quiet, safe and a good place to raise a family.

Farming

Local environment

beautiful topography

Natural beauty

Unique geology.

Community Center and public gardens!

The natural beauty and the sand mining moratorium

Natural beauty

Small business community and the welcoming vibes it provides.

Natural beauty and outdoor environment

Great Recycling system

Natural beauty

An outstanding farming community

Recreation

Mississippi river heritage

Good Farming practices

The natural beauty

Friendly helpful people/good neighbors

Family farms

Maintaining our safety.

Our public library.

The amount of accessible public land it maintains and protects for its residents

It's our agriculture

scenic topography

Good Farmers

We are working to maintain our beautiful county's natural abundance and legacy, of both river, stream and bluff ecosystems!

The beauty and the Dairies

Safe neighborhoods.

Rolling Hills and the Mississippi River

Resources are available to undertake multiple visions and objectives. Balancing growth and development requires both planning and execution. To be viable and sustainable for all stakeholders is essential.

Agriculture

Our rural landscape

It's agriculture base and the things that built community in a diverse landscape.

Dairy farms

Winona takes excellent care of its parks and communal spaces, and often utilizes them quite well. Community events, when well communicated, are a blast and highlight the wonderful residents, artists, and business owners. Winona is one of the cheapest places in the country to live, given how beautiful, active, and well loved it is. To lose that accessibility to those who may need what winona has to offer, in place of expensive apartments few to none can afford, would be a shame.

Community acceptance

Unique combination of entrepreneurship, arts, and natural resources, and its reputation as a regional hub.

natural resources, including outdoor recreation opportunities

Lots of natural land

Protection and enjoyment of natural resources, dedication to the agricultural community.

The available educational opportunities.

Its natural resources and how its businesses have fared on the national and world stage.

John Latsch

(Q3) What is One Thing Winona County Should Preserve?

All Responses

Same^ (good farmers)

The kindness of people and jobs for people.

Water and green lands. Sustainable economy.

Maybe making the roads bigger and the roads are skinny!

Everything looks good.

Health and education, opportunities for immigrants

Everything!

The jobs available

Dental care for ortho

None

Snow - sometimes it not clean on time for school, work

None

Snow in MN

Snow in MN

More services

Hiking trails

Nature

Their parks, mountains (bluffs), waters.

The nature in Winona. With the nature it makes Winona beautiful.

Agriculture, forests/woods

The opportunities we have to enjoy all the different aspects of the outdoors (parks, hunting, fishing, rivers, streams, blufflands, trails, people lands, etc)

Bluffs & water

bluffs from development

The nature

History

Clean water

Their nature land

History of downtown

The peaceful life that you can have here.

The nature

The attention to its residents

the waterbody

Historic Buildings

Sugar loaf

everything

Historic Building Churches

Catholic Schools

The doughnut place

Walmart and other stores

Parks and lakes

The unique beauty of the setting. The driftless area is very special and it has a regenerative appeal. The town feels safe and the tree lined streets not only help air quality and cooling for higher temps, they also provide a nostalgic feel with the Mississippi River flowing by. The bluffs and views from them, the small farms nestled around the county add to a vanishing past that we all might think twice about. Preserve our natural settings the real assets of our community.

Broadway Street from round a bouts.

old buildings

Natural resources

Historical structures

It's natural and historic beauty.

Downtown buildings - but only if it is feasible when it comes to money and that the use of the building is appropriate

It's natural resources.

River front park and farmers market

Riverfront access

Parks. Driftless region and all parks.

Green spaces.

Medical care

All opportunities to continue growing and working.

Everything. Opportunities for all.

Everything

No to Cannabis stores!!!!!!!!!!

Natural areas

Its affordability

Public river access and the bluffs.

Sugarloaf

Natural beauty

Environmental protection

highways,water quality

the hard working lifestyle of county residents. Keep illegals out of our county.

The bluff lands

The health of the environment

agricultural land.

Mississippi River

The wildlife and beauty.

Sugar loaf. Plant more trees down by the lakes

It's clean environment

natural beauty

Scenic Beauty and clean water.

History when appropriate, public lands and parks as long as they can maintain them

Bluffs, trails

There are two wishing Wells at farmers park, they both have a shelter over the wishing well. It would be nice to see them reconstructive some with path opened up to them. I believe they were donated by the railroad way back when farmers park became farmers park

Access to nature/environment

It's historic buildings.

Agriculture land

Whitewater Park

Public access to the river

Rural living values.

Historic buildings

Winona Parks

The blufflands and it's natural areas

A government that isn't over reaching and controlling of individual rights

natural environment

The ability for the working class to still be able to afford to live here.

Historic buildings and landscape

Parks, environmental projects, community activities and events, focus on human beings and wellness

nature

Lakes and natural beauty

?

Our bluffs and natural habitat

Nature- trails, bluffs, river, lakes

Our lakes, rivers, trails, parks

The bluffs, river, area beauty, skyline

Nature! Especially the bluffs, parks, river and other waterways

Lake's park's

Recreational areas for residence and vistors

Historic architecture

Historic structures and those with unique architectural details.

bluffs, hiking trails

0

Its abundant natural resources

Clean drinking water!

It's stunning geographical setting

Beauty of the bluffs and river (including water quality)

Our natural surroundings including, water, bluffs, river buffers, lakes

We are a farming county defined by rivers with a landscape people travel to enjoy. To preserve clean soil, clean water, and beauty for all will take diligence and regulation.

Land owners rights on their own property.

Our beautiful natural environment: bluffs and forests, river, streams and groundwater.

The small community and rural way of life

Rural atmosphere

Clean up Lake Winona. Looks terrible!!!!

Winona County should preserve its natural resources, scenery, and agricultural land. The challenge is balancing/prioritizing those things.

Our nature and resources

The land

It's beautiful environment

The parks and outdoor recreation areas

Natural beauty

Historic buildings, please for the love of god no minimalism. It's so boring. And more plants, trees, and nature!

Community spaces, activities and events.

Forests

Historic and rural community. They drive the region.

It's most vulnerable citizens and natural ecosystems and resources

The natural beauty of the area.

Unique natural heritage

Stop splitting up farms for urban sprawl

Natural resources

Small businesses

History

Small farms

We should try to preserve as many small businesses in rural communities as possible to keep them thriving

Buildings

Bluffs

It scenery and bluffs

Parks and places for kids to explore and grow

outdoor areas

Same as in last question and continue Support for all residents no matter their religion, race or orientation.

The nature/environment. The beautiful driftless region

Scenery views

The old and beautiful buildings

Nature

The land

Farm history

Winona County should do it's best to preserve agriculture in the County, as it is a large economic driver and drives and supports the small towns in Winona County.

Local heritage and history.

Small Town feel

It's farming

Agricultural land

Residents from moving from moving to other states.

same as above

Good drinking water for residents, economic capabilities

Its agriculture.

Farming

Older buildings

promotion and preservation of driftless area

Farm Land.

The river and lakes

Lourdes Hall

Trails and parks

Safety

The bluffs

Natural resources and public lands (our history and legacy!)

Drinking water,

Natural beauty and viable agricultural abilities

old homes

Historic buildings

Its bluffs and protect its waters.

Downtown historic buildings

No buildings on bluffs!

Wildlife and waters

Natural landscape

Parks and bluff land trails the lakes and the levee park area. The marsh and wet lands that surround the river are.

Small town feel

Natural beauty.

Natural resources

Wildlife

Riverfront for people, not industry

The bluffs

Our beautiful scenery

Park areas

Our view of the river & bluffs

River front area

Same as last question

Land

Helping smaller local companies grow instead of only having large corporations.

It's commitment to democratic principles

Community voices being heard

Natural resources

Native plants and trees; healthy lakes and river

Healthy environment

Parks

Rural ag communities

The old beautiful buildings.

Fresh, healthy water resources

Water.

Water sources

Downtown buildings. Historical buildings. Natural beauty.

Historical charm both in the downtown area and residential. The giant apartment complex by the river is an unfinished abomination that blocks the on a high traffic road.

Outdoor spaces

Entrepreneurship

The integrity of its waterways and groundwater.

The environment

The watersheds

Trail systems accessible for all people.

Historic downtown and natural landmarks/parks

Natural beauty

Blufflands

Family farms

The biological diversity (native plants, animals, and fungi) that inhabit its distinctive ecosystems.

bluff land without building

Natural resources

water quality for homes and recreation.

All of God's creation

Its agricultural and natural resources (including native, untouched areas) through tighter standards for sprawl

Outdoor public space.

Lake Winona

See above

It's natural beauty - like blufftops!

Parks

The natural environment.

Beautiful bluffs. Continue to protect bluffs from being developed.

Clean water

Clean water

The grandeur of the Mississippi River and surrounding environment.

Oak woodlands

Farm land

Our small towns & small businesses & beautiful land/ag land!

the river watershed!

Family farms of any size

As much tillable land as possible.

Our topsoil

All of the above.

Farm land

Local environment

beautiful topography

Clean water, air etc. environment

Lourdes Hall

Water quality.

Safety for community members to hold their leaders accountable.

Groundwater and small farms

Bluffs

Encouraging local economy and avoiding chain stores and restaurants.

Historical resources

Preserving Blufflands, keep them natural

Natural resources

The farming community

Natural resources

Trust the residents to do what's best for the land without government regulation

Farming

The natural beauty and agricultural land

Emphasis on all are welcome

The roads

Agriculture

Our river city feel

Our public library.

Bluffland habitat

It's agricultural Heritage

farmland

Good Farmers

Continuing to preserve ecosystem quality, especially those that are unique and precious; trout streams, prairies and unique forests, and river valley riparian ecosystems.

Law and order

Clean drinking water.

The agricultural industry

Respect for multiple opinions.

Family farms

Keeping the productive ag land into production

It's small towns and the ag base that supports them.

Dairy farm's

Communal spaces and affordable living.

Parks and rec

Water quality

habitat and natural resources

Accessible natural features- all ecosystems

Bluffland and other sensitive natural features

The quality of its surface and subsurface waters.

natural resources and its history

natural areas

(Q6) In 20 Years, I Hope Winona County Will Be...

All Responses

City of Winona stop dumping raw sewage in the Mississippi. Similar as now with lower taxes.

More housing

With a lot of employment opportunities, more educational things that young people can use.

I feel like maybe could be more people living here

More large, like big places

More recreational places, larger and more populated.

that it continues to expand!

as welcoming as always

Busing for pre-schools. Not for them to ride the big bus.

More housing to live in

More housing to live in

School are okay and safe my children will be in school by that time

More diverse and inclusive.

Better place for better economy

Have more businesses that will hire people

Invest nicer park so people can take picture.

Better than it is today.

A place that has a strong community where everyone's views are taken into consideration. Where people from outside the area seek to come and enjoy. Where private land owners have the necessary freedom to do what they want with their property without jeopardizing the well-being of others. An area with ample outdoor activities that encourage everyone to enjoy the things that tie people together and bring enjoyment.

thriving

basically the same

A county blending both rural and urban characteristics that also provided entertainment and community engagement opportunities to entice both current and future residents of the county.

A vibrant community within a well cared for ecologically significant landscape.

a better place for people to enjoy outdoor or indoors

grow more with younger generations

stay nice and small like today

affordable to live in

to keep the services and get better

more open to diversity

Big city

bigger

bigger

A bigger city with more businesses and more entertainment

a city like Rochester

More jobs

Like Rochester or La Crosse

It will have more people and more jobs

As, a refuge and example of how a small rural community can be true custodians for future generations. I hope we incorporate new technologies, small affordable homes, free public transportation and have sustainable energy supplying the entire area.

A small city in a big lake of opportunities.

more inclusive, have better restaurants, be committed to preservation

A place that has clean water, healthy forests and a strong economy that welcomes visitors

Thriving

Still a great story, place to work and live.

Booming downtown - events that bring large crowds and people walking the streets and shopping local.

Steady. We don't experience a boom and bust.

A safe and active community

?

Keeping up with technology and infrastructure while maintaining parks.

I hope Winona County stay the same and never allow violence or drugs to come. Add more places / housing to live. It is difficult to rent.

More populated and more opportunities for growth and more of everything.

That continue having food aid for children, and continue helping low-income people.

more pretty, more updated

A place to be proud of!!

Have a stronger downtown and more parks on the west end (past Huff St).

A place where everyone can afford to live a comfortable life in a setting that is community oriented

More kid friendly

Thriving with decent affordable housing that includes homes and condos to OWN not just our run down rentals. I hope we continue to attract diverse food and businesses and grow as a community. I hope our roads and traffic management is improved upon to accommodate for our growing community. I hope our local farm culture will have divorced from archaic practices that kill the land and adopt sustainable practices that benefit them and the surrounding land.

A place everyone wants to come visit and we have affordable housing for everyone.

A place where all feel welcome, economic opportunities are not extractive, and the environment is protected from pollution by industry and climate change.

A place where local residents are employed, making a decent wage, not having to commute to work.

A vibrant welcoming community

An even greater Arts Mecca and History center

more affordable private homes.

Affordable to live in.

The same size at it is now. We do not need more people.

Beautiful, up kept, people outside and socializing. People feeling safe to be settle down here and raise families

A diverse community with affordable housing and thriving businesses.

Energy independent via solar wind geothermal; decentralized as much as possible re: water, sewage, utilities; sustainable natural resource use of fish, water plants, greens like water cress from springs and more safe swimming sites; less regulations so limited seating restaurants or B & B could be in private homes; strong public schools, tech and colleges; a few medical specialties for med tourism to defray cost of resident med and social service needs. A portion of tax going to the arts via direct payment to performers, ie: park, on the water, and street music, art/craft shows; optimum police protection by people also trained in kindness, mental health, and social problem issues. Lower car/truck traffic/ boats and noise, more bikes, trikes, canoes, kayaks, pontoons bicycles, tricycles; encourage song birds so we can hear the birds sing again.

one with sewer services for residents in small communities.

Thriving and able to fund all the aspects as a public entity

A thriving and welcoming, culturally rich, and environmentally friendly community

Economically healthy. Working together and not tearing each other apart.

A wonderful community with affordable housing, great opportunities for its residents and pride for its community.

50,000 population

A community that values its diversity, protects its environments/ outdoor spaces/ habitats, embracing its history while allowing growth, and is a community that supports education and children

Sustainable, have fertile soil, and be a place people want to live and work

Growing on population. Not over regulated as to still be flexible to change.

A place that everyone is proud to call home..

A city people will want to come to. They can enjoy our parks, recreation, hotels and restaurants.

Pretty much unchanged.

Stable, not an economic tax burden for residents, not incredibly burdensome to navigate through the bureaucracy for permissions

vibrant blend of sustainable growth and preserved natural beauty

A safe city for every diverse set of needs.

Kind, sustainable, welcoming, down to earth

kind

The beautiful community it used to be. It is now divided and many entitled non working class. We want working class including farmers. Habitat for Humanity is giving homes to people not from around here but bringing them in. Crime is going up from people who were not residents but come for the free. Also do NOT allow the marijuana facility! Look at counties that allowed marijuana and you see homeless and crime way up which is now a problem here because of what I have been mentioning. Also putting dispensary near schools and daycares shows residents you do not care about the future! It shows you care only about money. Should be no illegal drugs allowed and that means Federal also! Shame on MN and shame on Winona County for allowing. Let's hope some new blood can start making decisions because what the woke ideals are doing to the community is hurting all. People with mental health issues need help not engage in their delusions. Would be nice if Winona would seek to HELP children by giving special needs children their school back as used to be similar to Lincoln school. Target the education to help the child at their level not EQUITY as that fails those children because it is beyond their capability but if you teach one to brush teeth may be a wonderful goal instead of learning algebra or pretending they learned it helps nobody. It teaches the special needs nothing and leaves them behind. Maybe I am going down hard on Winona but we used to have so many things to be proud of and now we lost it all. Businesses closed and more on the way out. To get a bright future look in the past what many doctors, lawyers and wonderful respected prominent people made the city. Right now most of my neighbors go to WI for shopping and entertainment. Nothing is in Winona anymore. Opportunities non existent and prices are too high and also now what happened to niceness and morals? People are mean here. Angry. They have no hope because winona has become a dumping ground

and allowing non ethical and non moral things against family but to target pride or similar removed hope. Remember this about schools also. Federal funding is being stopped when you teach the self hate and country hate. Love of self and country gives true pride including local!! Get it back if possible but you must focus on the future of the children and morals. We all should be ashamed we allowed this to happen. Drive by shootings? Drugs sold on the corners? Homeless people? Oh and stop using the schools for what shelters are! We pay taxes for the school not for that. School is education. Hopefully all the schools will close soon. Be prepared because Online Academies are the coming thing. AI and technology can focus the learning which teachers failed in. Do not dismiss what I have said. it will come back to you and if you are honest with yourselves you have to agree at least that we failed the residents especially the children.

Better shape than it is now

A safe environment. Low crime.

Pretty much the same

An affordable, safe, and enjoyable place to raise a family and start a business

More inclusive

More accessible to all

more friendly to new residents and have housing opportunities

Less democratic

Comprised of livable communities that recognize the value and importance of education, the arts, culture and outdoor recreation, and support them. Q

The beautiful place it is and not developed into a suburban like housing area. Keep our small farmers on the land and maintain our agricultural heritage.

A sustainable place to LIVE and work, not just recreate.

A beautiful community in which to live, work and play for people of all ages, races, genders and religions.

A leader in sustainable farming and land preservation as well as working to create more housing while incorporating environmental stewardship into the process. Something like rain catchment systems for roofs, raingardens, more trees and less concrete.

... a safe and beautiful and justice-focused place to live in, that there will be creative and equitable housing options with safe water, and that the attention to small businesses and the arts will be sustained through government as well as public support. I want there to be mental and physical room for us all and for the rule of law to prevail.

Strong economic area to live and raise a family in with many opportunities for family and community growth.

The same as it is now with good roads

Safe for families to raise their children in a rural country. Conservative

More river touristy!

I hope Winona County has preserved its essential character and the institutions that bring in new residents and perspectives. It is important to maintain the things that make Winona County great while also celebrating healthy changes.

A more affordable and equal place to live

More open to agriculture and less focused on “protecting” the city

Blue

A safe place where families want to grow

The beautiful bluff county will be a place for farming, outdoor recreation and hunting and community

A fun and safe environment and a good place to escape large cities like Rochester and the twin cities

Prosperous communities with economic opportunities, growing towns, and a strong education system.

The family friendly, safe, affordable, fun place it was 30 years ago.

Moved away from just another college town, to something that people want to come to visit and experience.

Prosperous for all

A county that protects its natural resources and prevents run off of soil and pesticides into the Mississippi river.

A good balance between urban and rural areas with high quality natural areas.

Employers will pay a living wage, bringing Winona county closer to the average

In 20 years, I hope Winona County will be an affordable, sustainable, and innovative community. One that protects its rivers, bluffs, and farmland, supports thriving local businesses and career paths, and creates a place where people don't just live, but truly belong.

Less of a tourist destination and more of a community

Open to all with equal opportunities more handicap accessible

A leader in more up to date farming practices

We hope that Winona County will change their ways, and strive to become more "ag-friendly" Give agriculture the opportunity to grow in our county, as other businesses do.

Growing

More of a friendly and caring area. More things for visitors to enjoy. Better restaurants.

Growing in population. Continued low crime.

A beautiful welcoming community to all people.

Uplifting, beautiful, with more opportunities to do things in nature! Like the ice park, mountain biking trails, etc

Enjoyed and respected

To be honest this town is only thinking about money in Their pockets.

The same environmentally, but with more community pride.

Current with regard to necessary healthcare for all residents.

Still a beautiful healthy place to live

A flourishing county rooted in agriculture and successful businesses, while being a great place to live.

Strong economically while environmentally sustainable and attractive to young families.

More common sense and less restrictions and still abiding to the constitution of the United States

I hope Winona County will become much more supportive of agriculture because it is an important part of the economy. Currently Winona County is one of least supportive counties for agriculture.

More affordable in retirement for my wife and I.

God centered, free, safe, people are financially secure

About 20k larger in population, with new jobs and sustained growth in housing

More agriculture friendly, unfortunately it has not felt that way in many years and animal agriculture is dwindling.

Still an attractive place to raise a family

a purple county where bi-partisan conversation equates to good for county citizens.

What it was back in the 30s,40s, and 50s.

A decent tourist attraction

Smarter and more forward thinking about marginalized populations, mental health services, and care for those who are not Fastenal rich.

Growing

Thriving

The same that is was

Majority rural land & protected land, a beacon for the arts, highly rated for education, not focused on increasing industrial growth

a place where people can live with dignity

Larger than it is now, due to new people moving here. But still maintaining its quiet semi-rural character.

leader in innovative social justice and welfare systems. Enough affordable and safe housing for all.

Not a have 50 old folks homes, maintain younger generation of people. Enhance the night life and bring better entertainment to the town.

The place to travel to for outdoor recreation opportunities, some of the best of the best in the Midwest. We have a real treasure here that a lot of people take for granted or don't appreciate.

A robust place for visitors to explore, shop and eat. People often drive to Lax or Rochester. Need more to keep people in Winona

A better blend of rural and urban, without the "us versus them" attitude.

Even better than it already is

A thriving community that balances its natural beauty with feel of a small modern city. Also more dog friendly

A safe place to live

A community everyone wants to live in.

A beautiful place for all with a high quality of life.

A welcoming destination county

Better than it is now, not so expensive to live here

Not so cliquey

Safer for my children to grow up, have a better public education system because it currently does not appeal to new parents, and will continue to have the natural beauty that attracts people here.

more engaged in renewable energy

As beautiful as it is today with jobs for residents.

Profitable

Still proud of heritage and our natural surroundings

As good as it is today

More local focused and more able to accommodate housing for lower-middle class persons. I don't mean restricting the ability to have rentals, but rather restricting the cost of those rentals.

A protector of the environment and of human rights

a leader in " small town hospitality " and in environmental protection.

A safe and secure home with natural resources preserved

As vibrant as it is today; even more welcoming to all people; stronger in terms of affordable housing and more youth in our schools

Providing low income housing for all

A safe and fulfilling place to live.

A safe community

The same friendly, positive environment it is now.

Thriving and supporting the connection we all have to the land.

Safer

More of a destination town for restaurants, events and shopping. Not just a college town. Maintaining the history that is already here.

A place that continues its commitment to the environment and education. A home that doesn't bring in too many chain / box stores so that small, local businesses have room to grow.

Affordable

Small business and all types of agriculture focused

A place with pristine waters and a place that has taken climate change seriously.

A welcoming & diverse community with natural resources for all to experience.

More populated in its rural areas.

A community of diverse people who value and protect the air, soil, water, and ecosystems that make this pocket of MN unique. I hope there are opportunities for all people to live, work, and thrive within the boundaries of this community. I hope we invest heavily in educating and raising healthy and happy children to succeed in this ever changing world to be responsible, civic minded people who value diversity of thought and experience.

A safe and progressive community that supports both our college age residents but also supports young families and encourages folks to stay here and build up the community. I hope the continued work on our historic downtowns creates a thriving community hub and tourist destination. I hope the natural beauty of this area is sustained and maintained, including city and county parks. I hope yo see more dedication to the public education for school aged children.

A place we are proud of

Mindful of environmental health

More ag friendly than they are now

an island of natural beauty and biodiversity with education and opportunities for everyone to enjoy and to conserve for future generations.

A vibrant place that young families want to move to, are able to find starter homes for their families, and raise a family here with a decent living.

Like it is with better roads

Environmentally seeing positive results from efforts and resources applied now. Have all communities along the river such as Dakota be using a sewer system instead of leaky septic systems.

A safe and bountiful place

Growing (vertically) and featuring unmatched access to its public lands.

Healthier,

better than ever.

A safe, healthy, and, inclusive place to live

A gorgeous, beautifully preserved landscape that is a destination for tourists, and has economic vibrance and diversity that sustains a connected and civically engage population.

A vibrant, active county that supports residents of all ages and abilities.

About the same population

Known in the Midwest as a great place to live and visit

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A welcoming community where folks of all stripes work together to maintain a healthy place to live, work and play.

thriving with healthy people enjoying a quality lifestyle surrounded by nature.

Better than it is today

A beautiful place for my kids where they choose to live & stay!

community-centered

More responsive and sensitive to rural areas

Vibrant diverse farming area with value added agricultural products, e.g. cheese, woven fabrics, foods.

A safe environment for its residents, healthy farmland and woodland, preserve our wildlife.

Much like it is now with better roads.

Growing in agriculture

More liberal

receptive to protecting and welcoming to ag and industry

Thriving

Clean and prosperous with affordable housing.

a place for small and medium sized farmers, have clean water, have economic opportunities, be more diverse, have an environmentally sustainable economy, have neighbors that talk with each other and respect a wider range of views, and still have democracy in place.

A place where a diverse community thrives.

A lot like it is now except with clean, safe groundwater

More inclusive and have better housing infrastructure.

A County where residents can be safe, healthy, and confident that they have a part of decision making.

A bastion of nature and a home for small farmers

An example of county that preserves and protects its natural resources while providing economic opportunities for residents.

A place to be proud of living in

Better able to offer affordable housing

Less restrictive to growth of business and fewer restrictions on farms of all sizes.

Not restrict and regulate farmers to the point of failing

A county that is able to maintain its rural character while encouraging economic and cultural diversity

Welcoming to all who visit or want to become residents

More supportive of their life long residence.

Still investing in protecting our ag land

A place people want to live in

97% renewably powered, 0% homeless, and sustained by an economy of worker owned businesses.

A place where a younger generation wants to not only attend school, but make Winona County their permanent home. I hope we accomplish this by providing more and better job opportunities across multiple disciplines not just manufacturing and farming. I also hope there will be improved road systems and infrastructure. I also hope we continue to protect and expand the amount of natural areas in our County.

A lot more common sense than they have know let the real communities decide on their area, not the city

similar design to 2025

stopping the city of winona from dumping raw sewage into the mississippi river and lower taxes with new technology and greater belt tighening.

A place where residents new and old can connect, belong, contribute and thrive. I want this to continue to be a place where working families can make good lives for themselves, people feel safe and connected in their communities, and we can all enjoy the beautiful nature we get to steward.

Cared for without taxing dairies property taxes, homeowners, retirees and sales tax to death

Safe, neighborly, accessible and affordable and has great places to walk to for dining and shopping.

More farmer friendly by allowing family farms to grow and expand rather than restricting them.

County of prosperity and growing to meet the needs of our people.

More rural friendly

I hope it will still be based on an agricultural community. The way it's headed right now it will be 75% residential and commercial properties

A county that does not view ag as a detriment but an essential part of the economy.

Happier, and more dedicated to its residents and its community spaces like parks and the theater. Less interested in the needs of the already-wealthy. Less interested in chain restaurants.

A safe space for my family

More residents (population growth) within the existing cities, with no sprawl into agricultural land.

More welcoming to immigrants/refugee community members

Able to provide housing opportunities for those who want to live here.

A healthy place for families.

A county of beauty and place of opportunity for its residents.

as beautiful as it is today and a great place to live and work

(Q7) What is One Event, Recreational Opportunity, or Community Amenity That You Enjoyed in Another Community That You Wish Was in Winona County?

All Responses

I don't know.

I can't think right now of one place that has something that got my attention.

Not really.

I don't know what to say.

I don't know.

nothing

More dance classes to the public in a public space.

I'm not sure

Cultural events, picnics

Cultural celebration of all culture.

More camping options. More community gardens to grow healthy, nutritional food.

Hosting soccer tournaments

More Entertainment Opportunities

Trails for biking and hiking, vibrant community within small towns/villages (cafes, schools, parks, gathering centers)

nothing right now

no suggestion

extreme sports

race track

Im not sure

gocart for the family mall

a big mall

more food experience

fairs

The Greekfest in Olmstead County

nothing

Nothing

More community events

Shopping mall

In my opinion I think we do very well with the exception of a good public transportation system that extends to areas were needed.

Splash pad for my children

skiing, hiking trails

Pizza farm where you can go out for a drink and get food on the farm

Better public safety, public campgrounds, public golf courses.

Many towns seem to have very busy events in their downtown area. You can stroll on a weekend and hit up many storefronts. The streets are clean and no one is bothering you for any sort of hand out.

Driftless Safari, a county-wide scavenger hunt in Winneshiek County, Iowa.

Clean swimming beach

Moon tunes

??

A city that takes care of it's trees: not just occasionally injecting for emerald ash borer, but pruning and tending the main street downtown trees, for example.

I don't know.

I don't know.

I don't know too much about it but it would be great if they have activities to get some distractions for all!

I don't usually go to any amenity or recreational opportunity

More biking trails.

Movies in the park (free community event), bigger farmers market with more types of venders, free bus passes for youth 6th-12th grade... Especially older youth to help get to first jobs.

An arboretum

Public area where one can walk and enjoy the Mississippi River.

Slash pad

Containment of the college culture. I appreciate what our local universities bring to the local economy, but I do not appreciate living next to a bunch of 20 year olds who only want to party. The rental culture in our town has some pros, but living in town is difficult when your neighbors don't care about preserving the peace or community.

Splash pads and better parks.

Welcome and protection for Diversity

easy access to large waste and garden type waste

Something similar to what La Crosse does with Moon Tunes.

Not sure

Community Center with mixed age activities

Bear hunting.

Ashley for the arts

a butterfly house! and aquarium/zoo/botanical gardens with only local flora and fauna.

Music venue that draws national acts.

I can't think of anything.

Zip line

A splash pad and better park facilities for our kids

Music in the parks and better advertising for these community events.

Waterfowl hunting like it was 40 years ago. Used to be a better flyway...

I believe we have it all.

None

Winona county having it own Stadium

Splash pad

fireworks not on sunday

Winona past- beach house at the lake . Use what we have and improve it.

More sober events. All live music, comedy, bingo seems to revolve around alcohol. Also in Altoona WI they created a place called the yard, and it's similar to our beirgarten but it has permanent food trucks made out of rail cars. Very unique and brings many tourists and locals to enjoy food and live music.

More local food restaurants

A splash pad!! Hortonville, WI just put a gorgeous splash pad in and they are WAY smaller than Winona. There are so many young families here, but I've known a handful that have moved to La Crosse or Rochester in the last couple of years, because those areas just offer more for young kids. The water feature at the levee is a poor substitute for a proper splash pad.

Roof top bar and grill over looking the river.

Accessibility that is user friendly (universal design)

There are so many great events-but hard to keep track of when and where

Pumpkin patch(Ferguson's).

Natural resources not overdeveloped

TV station

Easy and safe biking both in town and to town. Bike lanes or more bike paths would be nice

Sanctioned sidewalk dining and a way more open access to the river as a destination for recreation, community events, peaceful solitude on a quiet afternoon...good question!

Develop the river front similar to Lacrosse and other waterfront communities

Bike trails

It is pretty sad that with 2 boat harbors in Winona, that we have to lock through to spend money instead of spending the money in our own pool. Never should of sold Godfathers to Baystate!!!! Should of been a restaurant to attract more to Winona!!!!!!

I can't think of anything.

Other counties allowing farmers to expand without all the push back

Community Christmas events

An all inclusive, fenced in park similar to the Teddy Bear park in Stillwater or Trane park in La Crosse

Free concerts and movies in the park in Arnold's Park Iowa

More hiking trails

I loved the county fair but I wish there were more activities. The rides are fun and stuff but it would be fun to have like a game tent and stuff

Splash pad (there are minimal things for families with young children). A splash pad at the east lake park would be lovely.

Farmers markets

A sense on comradery.

Houston hoedown

Winona's Beethoven Festival. Grand Marais is a great example of a county that connects the town to nearby recreational activities.

More opportunities to ski in the winter

More activities on the River/waterways. Or shopping opportunities.

Mini golf or laser tag

Activity that would allow the older generation to attend also

More interaction between law enforcement and children

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Rather than focusing on recreation, etc.. More focus needs to be given to agriculture and it's economics, as they are the bread and butter of the county. As the ag businesses grow, then other businesses will also thrive. Win-win!

concerts

Unknown

Curling

Skiing/snowboarding, more outdoor restaurant seating

Downtown shopping...enhance the older bldg...decorate for cmas like in the 70's

Keeping their town clean , safe and enhancing the memory of the town, keeping old buildings up fixing roads, putting it in parks things for kids to do.

Things for young kids: a splash pad, children's museum, indoor playground, etc.

River festivals and events tailored to celebrating various foods and beverages in the county. Also, Winona county taxes for businesses are too high. It's hard to compete with Wisconsin or counties where small businesses are celebrated/appreciated more.

Can't think of any at the moment.

More tourism, things like river boat tours. More urban development.

Ashley for the arts

Support and appreciation for farmers and agriculture.

Can't think of any.

horseback riding trails

A makerspace and business incubator!

Breakfast on the Farm.

Better restaurants

Better shopping experience. Semi-pro sports team.

People being able to afford a home with working 40+ hours a week

More diverse food choices that are not pizza, bar food, coffee, or tacos. Attract people from other cultures to open small businesses and restaurants like Ethiopian or Brazilian.

Lake fishing with a boat

Controlling boat landings. We have boat landings for residents but the spaces are all used by out of town people having fishing tournaments.

a dedicated outdoor amphitheater and indoor performance spaces for musical, theatrical, lecture events.

I've been to a lot of interesting events and activities in Northfield. Some of our annual events (Steamboat Days, for example) feel old and outdated. Nothing ever seems to change.

Better restaurants rather than fast food and Mexican.

Steamboat days time. We mostly have fun during the summer months and enjoy steamboat days weekend. We wish steamboat days was bigger and had more to do, also want better bigger named bands to come to the beer tent. Having more children interaction would be nice like an outdoor water play area not just a splash pad on the levee. Adding more involvement for families would be nice.

Theatre.

More public indoor ice skating time!

Fairs, community center

The rotary light show in LA Crosse. We have an incredible river front it would be great to see it with more Christmas spirit.

Not sure

Winona could be more inviting and welcoming on its shoreline and improvements to all parks including Latch Island.

The ability to interact with local government- through various channels such as live meetings, ability to search videos of government meetings all on line for all residents.

Better maintained Atv/utv trails

Duck boat tours

Some sort of indoor theme park for children

Lakes

More trails on our beautiful bluffs

Go carts

Steamboat Days has diminished to a small nothing. Bring back Steamboat Days abd don't squeeze it on side streets downtown. Do Better

More investment. The county office facilities are substandard. It is difficult to connect with your employees.

Indoor park for kids - having to travel to La Crosse if too far. And some kids can't be outside for various medical reasons, and sometimes the weather is too consistently bad to be outside as well. Kids need to play, and a weather controlled environment nearby would be awesome to have again.

A pizza farm such as Suncrest Hills across the river in Wisconsin

Better road conditions

Beach house

Music in parks.

Less solar and wind turbines.

Friendly Master Gardener program with community gardens.

More equitable housing resources for all

A bookstore, a community kitchen.

More shopping opportunities

The shopping district in Stillwater. It is set up so similar to Winona. Lots of historical buildings preserved along the river.

Food Truck Festival. There are so many great food trucks in this area, having a Food Truck Festival would be so much cooler than the "touch the giant, pollution 18 wheelers" thing they're doing now for kids.

First Fridays! The first Friday of the month there is music and food trucks and alcohol in the street

Better county fair, land locked location, move to Lewiston

Lately, most of my positive experiences have been in Winona County.

More shopping opportunities

None

Better public transportation system

Community planning and involvement

More amenities / active use of Farmer's Park

Supper clubs

n/a

more outdoor seating at restaurants

More bike trails.

Electric trains

More transportation options among surrounding communities

Better bike trails.

I think we have loads of events and opportunities already and we don't need to be looking for more new shiny things. What I want to see is well maintained roads and infrastructure and financial sustainability for the entertainment/events that we already have in place.

Affordable theater and live entertainment opportunities.

Fewer gravel roads in the rural area

More paved roads

Blues / Jazz Festivals

knowing my neighbors. I knew my neighbors in Arlington, VA better than I do here. Everyone seems caught up in their own lives.

Cheaper gym options

a permanent farmers market structure. still outside, but covered. tables too.

Better parks

Safe biking/ hiking paths but not at the exclusion of farm land, whether dedicated paths or wide marked shoulders.

?

We already have many recreational opportunities.

Paved bike trails

Large farmers market year round

not sure there is anything that comes to mind except warmer weather in the winter

Splash parks!

Downtown La Crosse does a better job of taking advantage of the unique river opportunities. (I realize that is more of an issue for the city of Winona.)

All gender bathrooms! Free parking. Artistic center.

A county park with camping and swimming/fishing

Dark sky initiative

Affordable Housing

Winona County is full of amazing recreational and community amenities in my opinion. Maintenance of those facilities, especially the Levee Park would be more welcoming. Maintain in general creates more welcoming and attractive spaces.

Thursdays on First in Rochester.

Christmas market

A breakfast on the farm event. We have family night on the farm, which is good and should continue, but breakfast on the farm would be good, too

None

Breakfast on the farm

Flea markets

Better public schools

Our library has a small 'library of things' that deserves to be expanded to match other towns' similar programs that include many temporary necessities and large cost tools such as cribs and lawn mowers. These programs allow people to maintain better quality of life without overextending their budgets, increase the use of public libraries, and help to create community bonds.

The fair

dairy farm trade show comparable to Central Plains Dairy Expo in Sioux Falls, SD

more church picnics

I think Filmore county and Lanesboro in particular have done an excellent job incorporating the arts and their outdoor recreation opportunities (bike trail and river access) into their community identity and tourism draw. I would love to see continued investments in community arts programming, and increasing public land and trail access. It's all a win win for residents!

Casio and a creamery for the dairies

Car-free areas for dining and shopping, next to residential.

Support for small communities.

Successful small town event.

Supperclub

More support for League Baseball. I'd love to be able to draw more people to their games!

Indoor activities for children! Please!!! Being stuck in the house all winter with energetic kids with no where to go. We have to go to LaCrosse or Rochester. Would LOVE something closer to home please!

N/a

bike trails - paved and natural surface

Splash pad, library open on sundays/extended Saturday hours, free safe fun family activities

Increase in bike trails

Nothing that I can think of.

sports complex for youth sports like soccer and hockey

(Q13) Is There Anything You Would Like to Change About the Way That You Get Around the County? If So, What Would Need to be Done to Support that Change?

All Responses

County road #30 needs work. In the 1960s 60% of budget went to roads: now only 30%???

Nothing.

No.

Nothing.

I don't know.

Nothing

I would like to have my boys do more sports within the community

I don't drive I stay home most of the time I go out when my husband drives us.

I don't drive so I wait for someone to get me places.

None

No

No change

None

The roads in the county are very unimpressive. Many could stand to be improved upon.

No.

Not currently

I would like to bike more, but the shoulders are not safe.

no

No comment. I have to drive

no

no

nothing

no

No

No

No

NO

Cheap gas. Better public transportation

more sidewalks

more public transportation, safer routes for bikers who ride to and from work everyday.

No

Better quality roads. There needs to be a lot less salt and sand spread on our roads and streets as well. I pay for needless sand to get spread on many unwarranted days then i pay to have the sewers cleaned of it then i get to park my truck in piles of sand on the curbside because the street sweeper is rarely on that street.

No change

Electric bikes

Better bike lanes - better lighting on 61 and also Mankato

no

Don't know what to say.

No

Keep 14/61 beautiful and paved!! River scenic drive/route!!!!!! BEAUTIFUL!!!!!!

We would like to bike or walk more, but everything is so far apart. I can't go to the park and the store without driving all the way across town. You can't get anywhere without going on very busy rounds with not shoulder or bike lane. Not safe to bike with kids anywhere but the lakes. Someplaces you are walking and there is all of a sudden no sidewalk so you have to walk on the road. For example lake Dr by the small lake and the highschool. Can't get access to the lake path from west end without walking in the road.

More public busing

With the elimination of Taxi companies to ride shares, transportation is slightly more unreliable in town.

More bike trails connecting rural towns to hubs.

busing esp for seniors

Allow more limited use of UTVs on some city streets.

Don't know how but, but some form of public transportation

we are still in LOVE with our autos!

Yes, improve rural roads.

County wide transit

small electric low fee bus combined with school bus system

Getting information on how to find transportation to areas in the community

Better street crossings for pedestrians and ride share options to prevent drunk driving.

Dedicated bath paths along key commuter roads (not a bike lane, dedicated and separate bike path)

Not sure the bus tools are cost effective.

N/A

Reverse the cost of public transport back to a lower rate. Emphasize walkability.

ALL that go on roads should be licensed. E-bikes and bicycles also! They should have to pay for what they use like cars and cycles do!

Rural transportation. Many do not have options in rural areas and have high need for transportation

The public transit busses are terribly organized.

More accessible public transportation that cost less (accessible buses)

Transit costs are way too high- esp. with the increase this year.

Animal units increase.

More trains frequency and connections. I think we need a transit route along Hwy 61 between LaCrosse and Winona

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I currently drive but this is my last car. I would like to see bus routes on a monthly basis go to state parks, rural restaurants or an updated County Fair.

Easier biking, rural buses

We drive everywhere because we live on a farm. Our next move is likely to be into town, in which case public transit seems vital, perhaps in the form of small electric or hybrid vans, on some routes, for example. And also, while I am not a bike rider, so many are - safe, safe-guarded bike paths please.

Have more transportation like the Byrds we have in the summer. Cops are too DWI worried and it's killing small business.

I'm generally satisfied with transportation in Winona county.

I would rather it be much more walkable and billable as well as better public transportation

More roundabouts

It would be nice to have something affordable to take people into Rochester. A lot of people in St Charles work in Rochester and if something happens to our cars, other options are nice

Decreased railroad traffic through neighborhoods.

more public transit to rec areas

More walkable

Continue to support accessible buses whose routes fill basic needs, like clinic, pharmacy and grocery stops.

Support train service

More biker friendly

Current transit works for within Winona city limits. Is there anything that takes you out of the immediate Winona area that goes county wide? If there were some sort of transit for the more rural areas, i feel like that would be helpful.

Better transit hours

no comment

more mass transit

Not really

More ATV/UTV trails. A bike path in the county so people don't have to travel on the roadways

Busing, trains, bike

Mo

Bike trails, side by side trails, and recreational trails in general need attention. Several states/counties support their trail systems much better than Winona. Trails help small businesses in small towns by connecting them to travel options.

None

Taxi service

None

Recognize the need for affordable transportation options for persons unable to drive due to a disability or medical condition.

No. Americans love their cars and freedom. Leave it alone! If there are enough people who live in the city that need transportation maybe incentivize someone entrepreneurial to run a bus service.

More ways to connect to Rochester and Twin Cities for flights and shopping

safer street bike paths.

We are supposed to be bike friendly and bike lanes don't fix anything. There needs to be something done to fix the drivers. I'm afraid to ride my bike here.

Na

I am unaware of county transit. I am unaware of any public van or bus that goes around the county. Dial a ride is limited to the immediate area of the city of Winona.

It would be nice to have more public transit available throughout the county, in time slots that meet the needs of all.

Better Public transportation that is affordable

The cleanliness it's dirty in a lot of places. Especially alley ways.

More bike friendly streets/trails

Wider shoulders on country roads for biking and pedestrians.

Better infrastructure for bikes. I have seen roads redone with the attached bike lanes not touched so they are very rough and hard to use

NA

Fix Broadway, I live in town and have been almost hit several times trying to cross the street.

Nothing at this time.

Better roads

Reliable Uber or Lyft rides

No

I use a car in part because I live a fair distance from most stores, etc. If I lived closer, I would definitely walk to my destination. However, Winona county isn't very pedestrian friendly with highways, roundabouts, etc. We need to look at more pedestrian bridges over highways and less emphasis on the automotive/truck traffic.

Improvements to road surfaces

Taxi & Uber

No

If would be helpful if road construction was completed in a timely manner.

More public transportation at lower costs

Better road conditions

Better public transit between communities

More bus routea

More grocery stores in walking distance.

More road maintenance.

Public transport, please!

Car dependency. Public transportation seems available but not convenient.

Better parking in the city and downtown area

Bike lanes. Winona bikers (and people who use the electronic scooters) are dangerous. No helmets, drive in places they shouldn't (side walks, wrong lane, don't follow road rules). The lake parks also need to designate the larger lake for bikes / roller skating. Get the bikers off one of few places people can walk dogs. I've almost had my dog hit by bikers who don't announce they're behind you and barrel past. The roundabouts were poorly implemented, only ONE was actually needed in that location. There need to be walk lights for pedestrians. That crosswalk is DANGEROUS. (Also those boulders/rocks are ugly as sin.)

I wish it was more walkable from e and w lake blvd

Roads that account for bikers/walkers--both rural and urban.

I have used public transportation my entire life and it is weird to live in a place where that resource is so restricted. I grew up taking public transportation to school and think that combining public buses with school routes can be done safely and successfully to get more riders from an early age.

Consistent Taxi Service!!

A better bus structure Developed with members if the community and owners of busing services

It would be nice if we were even more bike friendly.

More Utv options

n/a

Free buses

More biking infrastructure would be helpful

More ride share or taxi

More bike trails (not bmx/mountain bike trails).

We need more on-demand RELIABLE transport - this will also help support locals in addition to tourists that visit on the borealis.

No

Less gravel roads

Busing

More business in the small towns.

normalize bussing! I am young and strong and fortunate enough to be able to ride my bike, but not everyone can.

Get rid of gravel roads

Well maintained roads to keep driving safe

Paved bike trails

Better trails

More public transit options including busses and trains that go through the county to other lications

Create more bike friendly travel possible. Create more "real" mass transit, especially' between Winona County and Rochester and larger cities.

I would move it to be safe for bikes! For our city to be planned out less for cars!

No

Better mass transportation, more frequent, more destinations

As a rural resident, it is what it is.

EV Fast Charging Stations would help

I am a rural resident; therefore, I need to drive.

Not at this time

No change

No

More rural mass transit

Extended routes for local city bus system

No

I walk to places on my side of highway 61, but highway crossings are not well marked, maintained, or respected by many drivers. I would be able to walk more places if more and importantly better crossings were made across highway 61. I would also like to take the bus more, but even a low cost to the bus means that it doesn't make sense to maintain a car(which I have to for work) and pay for bus fair. If the bus was fully tax funded and free at the point of use then I would have no reason but scheduling not to take the bus and would do so.

More public transit opportunities from city to city in the County

When rebuilding roads improve them not leaving the same or worse

Fewer Roundabouts

cty road #30 needs work also in the 1960s 60% of the county budget went to roads and bridges. today; less than 30%????

I absolutely think we need to invest in more public transportation that is timely, safe and decent for travel both within the county and to other regional hubs.

Passing lane on 43 south of winona on the hill and move speed limit sign to the city limit

Love being able to park and walk to dining and shopping and groceries.

None

Being rural vehicles are usually my only reasonable option.

Roads need better shouldering sooner in the year

No

PLEASE FIX THE DMV PARKING LOT!

A rapid connector to Rochester would be great. Not sure what county bike trails exist, if any.

more connectivity for bike/ped/micromobility vehicles

More available rides between rollingstone, Altura, Lewiston, and st Charles. Possible extended bus routes

I would use a bicycle more if trails were available

No

(Q19) What does Winona County mean to you? Share your story!

All Responses

Home

Quiet place and good for kids and families.

Home! I grew up surrounded by kind people.

I don't have an answer, everything looks good, nice place to live.

It's my community. I like this place. It's my home!

Good place to have family and work!

My home

I like living here but sometimes it's very far from everywhere

Winona County is very good for family like my

A safe place to live.

It's a nice place to live



Winona is a great place to live when you have kids growing up.

Winona is a comfortable place. NO gang activities. Family can live happy.

Winona County is legitimately one of the cheapest counties in the state, and I don't mean that as a compliment. The county board would rather step over a dollar to save a dime, and the county administrator just feeds into it by finding ways to cut costs at every opportunity; even when it's at the expense of services or the quality of service the county could provide. The county needs to be wiser with their money. The LEC and courthouse roof are two examples of poor stewardship of tax payer dollars. The county continues to try and shirk services and government responsibilities by pulling other cities and communities into their mess. The idea that LaCrescent would maintain a Winona County park was laughable and a huge waste of everyone's time. YOU have a park. Take care of it. YOU need a new LEC, and you've wasted enough of the city's time that they've now dumped the problem on you rather than sharing the load. So what does Winona County mean to me? It means I could be drowning, and Winona county wouldn't throw me a life vest unless the city of Winona gave it to them for free.

Winona county has been a very good place to raise a family. It is a rural community and should stay that way to help foster the needs of a family which is the foundation of any community, state, and nation. The ample outdoor activities have played a significant role in creating an environment full of outdoor activities where families can bond and enjoy together.

Home!

Lived in winona my whole life.

WC is an interconnected community of small towns, successful businesses developed within an ecologically sensitive zone of the Misdisdippi River. Wealthy and middle class folks live well here. Low income folks seem to really suffer in not having access to stable housing and healthy living.

It is my home that I grew up in

small community where everyone knows everyone

My home

a new home

It means a lot because is where I am living with my family. Its important!

a place to raise my kids

I like winona

Future home

It gave me a better life

My second home

It is my new home, where I can raise my kids. It is safe and beautiful.

Winona County is home to me. I have travelled to many places to live and work, this driftless area is healing to me.

Many life stories and memories.

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Winona is home - everyone is welcoming and we enjoy living here. We live just far enough from downtown to feel at peace but close enough for everything.

The history and scenic areas are irreplaceable.. Need to be preserved.

A haven by the river, and thanks to Home and Community Options, helpful resources for my kids.

peace, quiet place, friendship.

My second home!

Good place to live with my family!

BEAUTIFUL AREA ALONG THE BLUFFS AND THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER!!!

A great place to raise a family

It is where I live, work, and play. I left rural Winona as a teen because of the bullies and closed minded people. I came back for the natural beauty and growing diversity. But big farms are eating up small farms and polluting of water. Small agriculture must be supported for a clean and resilient future.

Love the environmental beauty, access to medical and recreational. Worry that i will have to move when kids take keys to my car---no pubic trans.

Lived here most of my life. Love the environmental beauty and fact that is has become very vibrant as arts community and specific industry growth and strength

enjoyable place to live.

A place to live.

I'm a life long resident that has lived in Winona and rurally on both ends of the County. We need to preserve our current rural life.

Born & raised & now working for Winona Health. Love serving this community. Hope we can get back to realization that the Welch's building must come down. People can't live in that!

In Dresbach, I feel very disconnected from Winona County. We have little contact with the sheriff's dept. We use the library in La Crescent (Houston Co.). Our kids go to school in La Crescent. We have no free newspaper from Winona Co. We get the Houston News. I don't know what services Winona County offers us. We see no efforts for inclusion from Winona. It's simply a place to go to pay taxes.

My home cost is now about equal to the property for 1 year! And it is sort of a dump, prices based on location are unfair and designed to force people out of certain locations although they have protected the environmental ascetics the best they could.

I, like many others, am a transplant to Winona. I knew I wanted to live here the first time I came here for school. The beauty is what drew me in, but all the entertainment options and cultural experiences that are here keep me loving the area. I wish we had more opportunities for entertaining the kids in our community though.

I was born in Winona county so I call it home. There is a lock to see an winona county. I'm a photographer and I capture what I see in pictures.

I lived in the Minneapolis area for 20+ years. Moved out of state. Came back. I have been in Winona now for 21 years....it is home to me. It is beautiful. I has a pace of life that allows for living and that is precious.

Home area all my life . Have traveled much of US and still best place to live

I love Winona county and it's good quality of life.

Absolutely love where I live, however the Board comes across as aloof and out of touch in representing the majority population. I also struggle with the reasoning for putting these comprehensive plans together. Too often it is simply a tool for officials to defer creative ideas because it is not listed in the plan, or vice versa a generic statement of supporting clean environment encourages misappropriation of funds to projects that would better serve majority population like core infrastructure improvements.

Home! I was born here.

Thinking of taking our family out of Winona and MN actually because of how bad it has gotten. The focus is off and heading worse with bringing in dispensary. Not caring about children and even local news is full of propoganda. People do not like that and leave but it does draw homeless and poor. A community needs workers and businesses to help the poor, it cannot survive the way it is.

It has significantly gone downhill. Winona State has taken over too much. Winona's wealthiest keep building hotels or pointless blocks of structures that have no value to residents.

I great place to live surrounded by natural and agricultural beauty. We have an accessible county bureaucracy and I hope we do not loose our personal contacts to an all computer operating system.

Great place....Lived here most of my life. We are building a family farming legacy with multiple generations involved in the operations and plan to continue it for more generations.

While I wasn't born here, Winona County has become my home. I care about my community and environment, and I want everyone to be able to pursue the lifestyle that they desire. To me, this means preserving the essential cultural heritage of the county while focusing on opportunities for economic development and attracting new residents/ideas to provide fresh ideas and perspectives.

It's where I grew up and currently work, live and farm. Unfortunately the taxes keep going up and nothing is being done with that money that benefits my family. The roads around us are trash and no maintenance is done on any of the culverts bridges or roads in my area.

It's my native land

I came here to escape the city and I like that it was affordable. Prices keep increasing and I'll be homeless at this rate.

Winona county is home

lived here for 20 yrs. could be better.

Winona County's former 1 per 40 zoning has made it a place like no other. And current property values reflect that. Protect what we have as you look to the future. More housing does not mean more housing everywhere. It means more high density housing close to cities.

A unique landscape tied to rivers, a variety of lifestyles and a diverse evonomy.

I moved to Winona for school but it was the beauty of the area that made me stay. I grew up in south central Minnesota, in a small town surrounded by corn fields. So really, having a city that wasn't overwhelming - was great. And honestly that's why I stay. It doesn't feel too 'collegey' once you're out of school but not too quite in the 'off' months where you're not bored. Even while not working in the county, I don't plan on leaving.

Home. Lived here for 70 years! Lots of changes. Some good some not. I think the older and low income (younger) demographic folks have been forgotten at times

It seems that the case is Winona County tends to allow certain businesses to expand and grow versus limiting businesses like agriculture to grow.

Beauty and versatility

I love Winona County and I worked for the County for about 30 years. Winona County should be more caring for their employees.

Born and raised resident. I also work in Winona County. I like the small town, community feel. I also like that the crime rate is low

A welcoming place for all people to live no matter race, religion, orientation or disability. I believe it is so important for all our residents to feel safe.

I have lived here for 10+ years. I adore our community but there is always room for improvement. Winona county is a beautiful place to live but it would be greatly improved with more opportunity for better housing for example.

My home

I grew up here and this town definitely is going downhill. We no longer have any original restaurants either they all closed or burnt down and now we're nothing but fast food town for college students in bars. so I would say even though I grew up here and I'm still here this town is going downhill. The rich get richer the poor get poor. The roads are horrid. This town only cares for money in their pocket building these fancy new apartment/shop buildings that people can't even afford in this town.

I grew up in Winona county and love it here. The rural communities are filled with kind, fun, and interesting people. I think we separate ourselves from the drama of the state capital and put friendship and friendliness first.

Born and raised in this area. Would like to see least drugs, theft, and violence. Especially theft.

Winona County is my home and where I have lived my whole life. I hope to continue to be able to farm in Winona County and support small communities and grow the county into the future.

I love that there are A lot of first responders and fire departments and hospitals nearby

I look forward to the future when Winona County can support the agriculture community again. Farmers are caretakers of the land and are dedicated to improving it for future generations. If Winona County will not support its ag industries and farmers, we will leave Winona County and possibly the state to build our future in the ag/farming industry and provide for our families.

It's been our home since moving here in 1985. Hope to stay here if we can afford it.

It's my home. I've lived here 2/3 of my life. Don't ruin it.

Born and raised in Winona. Left for 30 years. Lived in many different states, but Winona was always calling me back. When I retired, I couldn't afford where I was living. Search cost of living here and decided to move back near family and friends. Since moving back 8 years ago, 4 more family members have moved back and we are delighted!!!! Beautiful city and very welcoming!

Home.

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This is where I grew up and where I chose to live. Watching Big Ag take over our legacy farms and our natural resources exploited is painful. Our place in Minnesota is unique and exceptional, offering so much for education about the diversity of the environment.

It is my home. I intend to live here for years longer. Clean air and water and healthy soil matters to me.

I love winona Just wish it had more to do and places to eat

I was born and raised here. It's been downhill for as long as I can remember, there's little to no economic growth, we got a few stores added since I was a kid, nothing major. There's too many factories, too many random buildings and hotels. We need space for retail, and entertainment

It's my home. I never wanted to leave the area. It has great areas to explore nature and fish. I love the trails and outdoors opportunities. The unique area of the driftless sub-biome makes this a beautiful place to live.

The place I grew up with lots of relatives. Experiences at Farmer's Park. Historic courthouse. Incredible natural beauty.

Not good

I was born here. I cherish our beautiful city surrounded by God's natural beauty

Lived here for 28 years. Worked in the county for 24. Care about it a lot.

I grew up in rural SW MN, and Winona became my home 15 years ago. I absolutely love it here, but don't like some of the economic development that has been happening lately (such as Jefferson's being sold to Fastenal and the movie theater lot being turned into a fancy hotel. It's not safe for anyone to walk a long distance alone at night, so without that lot a lot of people are having to park further away than they previously would have.

It is a beacon of government focused on the needs and desires of the residents. It's protection of the environment is essential. The support of programs that provide for the needs of underserved groups of all ages is important. In this world of hatred and divisiveness it allows for positive civic debate and engagement.

A beautiful place to live and play. A community of engaged folks who advocate for protection of our natural resources and for our neighbors.

Friendly town with good availability of access to the River, parks, cultural events.

Home and family.

We have to fight to keep our way of life in the rural communities as the city commissioners add unnecessary burdens on us.

Moved here recently. This county has a lot of natural beauty. The resources should be protected and conserved.

I moved here 15 years ago. This has become my home. I would like to see this town thrive and continue to have hometown pride with local businesses.

Winona County means arts (including folk), culture, and tight-knit community. I love Winona.

We are fortunate enough to live in the driftless area. It is absolutely beautiful. And we were extremely disappointed at how quickly the idea of a driftless national park was declined.

Winona is at a crossroads. It is a small town with big hopes and I want to see it succeed. I am surprised to see the heavy emphasis on agriculture in this survey because my life in Winona is so far removed from this industry. I do not come from a farming family and do not know any farmers. I have never stepped foot on a farm in Minnesota. For me, Winona is a recreational retreat. I use the the trails, the lakes, the public spaces to exercise and relax. I think of Winona as a place of manufacturing and music, with its agricultural roots a critical part of its history rather than its future. I live and stay in Winona because it is a safe community where my daughter is thriving. The public schools are full of caring and kind teachers and administrators focused on her academic success and the neighborhood where I live is safe enough for kids to ride between houses without fear. Her joy roots us to this place. Past business and political leaders clearly had conflicting ideas on what Winona should become. Some built museums and music centers and invested in private schools, which can feel exclusive to the point of exclusionary. Others clearly wanted to maintain the small town charm steeped in mid-west values and culture, which at times feels exclusionary to a transplant like me. In the long run, I hope that Winona chooses local entrepreneurship over big brand businesses, and raising healthy families in sustainable housing over Aibnbs and short term rentals. Diversity in our people and what we offer will strengthen Winona.

Our future

We love Winona County! The natural beauty can't be beat. The hiking trails keep us healthy and moving.

Winona County is home! Generally Winona Co has supported a much higher standard of living than pretty much anywhere I've lived in the past and I'm grateful.

A great place to retire to. Easy access to La Crosse, Rochester and Chicago. Good rail transportation

I've lived here all my life. It is beautiful in our area.

"young leaders"

I moved all across the country when I was young. Since moving here and starting 3rd grade at WK elementary, Winona has been as much of a hometown as any. The rich watershed and diverse microclimates of this driftless region have taught me to love the earth and it's lively creations.

Beautiful home town America

A blessing with beautiful landscapes of bluffs and the river and farms along with urban centers.

I feel it is a blessing to live in this area, compared to large cities.

My wife and I have traveled to all 50 states and over 30 countries. We haven't found a place we would rather live!

Born and raised here. I have always lived in the country.

When I think of Winona County, I think of the wide range of wonderful people who live here. I think of the beautiful landscape. I think of a place with a nice balance of small, medium, and large employers.

A place of possibility but also a place where you have to fight to be heard on human rights issues.

Winona County means a wonderful place to experience a life, natural beauty and outdoor opportunities that are abundant thanks to recent developments in that area.

I wasn't born here but it has become my home. There are so many beautiful places and people. We need to preserve our natural resources and prevent the transformation of our farms into large polluters .

Beautiful and safe place to live; a caring community.

It's the dairy farm backbone of the state. Dairy farms use the land as it is intended by rotating crops, utilizing contour strips, and having effective water quality management with forage crops. The farmers are scrutinized for issues that are almost always out of their control. Local government will be at fault for further deterioration of the water quality, due to the changes farmers will have to make in order to comply. Cattle will leave and then only synthetic fertilizers will be used for row crops instead of natural manures.

A nice place to live

It's a great place to live. Lots going on if you volunteer, you're needed!

God's country

I was born and raised in Winona County and farmed south of Lewiston most of my life. This is home. I want to see farmers prosper in Winona County.

Winona is where I was born, and where I still choose to live. Yet I often feel the leadership of Winona views the people who live here through a lens of opposition and control through intimidation. I love this place and many of the people I share it with, but I don't for a single moment really feel safe here. The police have a tank that we pay thousands of dollars a year to maintain and just this year they abused children at the fair without consequences, no doubt due to those children's families fearing a backlash if they demand justice. Yet all I hear about in the local news is the city and county refusing to even permit more affordable housing when we should be investing in it, but instead they are pouring millions more into policing us. With the coming climate challenges facing us we will need to come together as a community more than ever, but with a militarized police force hovering over this town and a big new jail ready to be filled by our bodies I can't see us overcoming those challenges without our community breaking and many people seeing no other path but to flee and seek asylum somewhere where people are a higher priority than profits.

Winona County means a connection between urban and rural residents where both parties can thrive together in a manner that preserves the precious driftless topography.

HOME

Winona County means home to me! I was not born and raised here, but I have chosen to make it my home for the last 6 years. I love this land, and I try to love it back. I am excited for our community to find ways to move forward, together.

I graduated from here ...FFA ..business in this town " forever"

A beautiful place and community that many of us find hard to leave. Love being able to leave car, get in some steps, walk to dining, shopping, banking and enjoy the historic buildings of downtown Winona.

I have owned multiple businesses and having adequate resources to support my businesses. Employees, financial resources, location, reasonable regulations, timely regulation response, common goals, etc.

This is my home forever. It's sad to see this countryside slowly turn into one big Amish community. We are quickly destroying the rural part of Winona with unnecessary businesses

It is where I grew up and plan to spend the rest of my life.

Winona has become my home since starting at WSU in 2014. It means more to me than can ever adequately be put to words. The people who live here are kind, generous, and joyful. I grow fearful when I see massive boondoggles wasted on vanity projects and poorly envisioned housing solutions that serve the wealthy and take away potential community space.

I moved here in 2010 for college and bought my home here in 2020. Winona County is a place where the American Dream is within reach. We need to act to keep it that way.

Winona County is my home, and somewhere that I hope to support through living, working, and recreating here.

Winona County is a relatively clean, healthy and convenient place to live. It has easy access to high-quality healthcare, good educational opportunities and easy access to nature-based experiences. There is room to improve on all of these, but we are definitely better off than many communities.

It's home. The place I grew up and have chosen to raise my family. It is a place that is beautiful and fun and provides a good quality of life!

(Q21) Do you have any additional thoughts or comments on the future of Winona County?

All Answers

No more solar panels. Taxes too high. Need less government.

Thank you

No

The county is failing to support public safety. We need more deputies on patrol, the volunteer fire departments are struggling to find members, and two ambulance services in the last few years nearly shut down and continue to barely get by. We need increases to public safety funding that goes to the people and organizations doing the work, not consultants, advisors, or people working in an office. It's absurd that the county refuses to plow or keep a plow driver on stand by at night during major weather events. This is a county of 50k people. If fire trucks and police cars can't get to emergencies, what exactly is the county doing? The county needs to revisit the animal unit cap and find a way to support agriculture and growing farms without snuffing out small family farms and harming drinking water. Inviting industry, like the methane recapturing plant two years ago, Anne requiring any farms over xxxx AU to use it would be one way. There are many, many vacant buildings around the county in unincorporated areas and small towns. Who is inviting businesses and industry in to fill these empty storefronts. Why doesn't the county have a stronger role in that? When Lewiston, Altura, and Stockton are doing better, the county benefits from it as well. The county workforce is honestly too small, at least in some areas. HHS and the Sheriff's Office need more staff. Maybe if you had more maintenance staff the maintenance that's been deferred for years on the LEC and courthouse wouldn't be costing us millions today. If the highway dept can't keep just one plow available during night time weather events, maybe they don't have enough help. We need to conserve agricultural land, but if farmers don't want to farm it anymore, I think we need to look into higher density housing options. Small cul de sac type neighborhoods in rural areas like Springbrook Dr or Meadowbrook Dr. Could be an option. Smaller lots and smaller affordable homes.

Nope.

nothing

no

Hopefully winona keeps such a inclusive and welcoming community

They should provide more opportunities to create businesses and schools should provide weekend classes for parents that want to pursue a better education

No

no

no

No

Needs more events and stores so I don't have to travel to Onalaska or Rochester

No

I like working at the farm.

Let Winona be that community that understood that we are the caretakers of our environment, that our children's futures mattered, we grabbed on to sustainable energies, food sources, fair housing practices and respected the gift this river town and farm landscapes represent. We are in a valuable position to do the right thing for everyone, not just the top tier.

don't let rich people buy up large swaths of property to saddle winonan's with their vision of what our community needs

Do us proud.

Winona would have an even better downtown if they did not attract individuals like the ones outside of the Day Center. It affects local businesses, scares away locals and tourists, and they leave terrible messes. It is not family friendly at all.

I really hope we value our natural resources.

Please no more development along the river.

Please no more Mexican restaurants

No. Thank you!

I like the idea of making Winona County keeping growing!

No

KEEP OUR BLUFFS AND RIVER CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL!!! NO BUILDING ON THE BLUFFS!!!!!!

I love the arts/community events and natural spaces in Winona. But, it feels like you have to leave Winona county to do things. There is not a pet store that has a variety of pet needs (fish reptile bird). In the winter if I want to get out of the house with my kids we can go to the library or the Y. Otherwise a 30-40min drive min. We miss the indoor playground at the mall (although my kids have outgrown that small space anyway). If I need clothes my only options are Walmart (bad quality) or target (limited options). As a busy family we don't always have time to drive and hour to Rochester just for shopping. Winona is great, but not always convenient, and really limited in things for ages 9-14 other than the library and ERC(which isn't always safe).

So much more could be done at the levee and our parks. We could use a community center to hold events.

Climate change is coming. Big Ag is not feeding the world, it's just destroying our rural communities.

we could benefit from dependable septic/system/community. would like to see (affordable) generational transfer of farm land so sons could continue family farming

property tax assessments are getting to high.

This has become a growing, healthy and balanced community. If there is an area that needs help, it is to help the downtown become an easier place for small businesses to thrive. Also to help with the transition of the malls to other uses and businesses.

keep encouraging land use debates.

Work on lowering taxes.

Keep it rural, growth does not benefit our current rural lifestyle.

Property taxes are too high.

As technology changes, Winona needs to be changing and growing with it

It'd be nice to post and enforce the no bikes on sidewalks... I've crashed into more than one when walking out of my businesses front door....

Growing for the sake of growing/change for the sake of changing is not necessarily a good thing.

Be conscious that creating more bureaucracy sometimes is not beneficial to the best interest of the public. An extraordinary amount of time was spent regarding the puppy mill ordinance. Did the County have a problem that isn't already regulated by federal and state law or was this an emotionally charged topic that took valuable resources from management of core central government responsibilities.

N/A

I wish I could I could have hope for Winona because it has so much beauty and could be the way it used to be. Was always diverse and accepting but now it is broken and opportunities the city grabs make it worse.

We have been going the wrong direction for a long time. Money trumps residents' opinions

Help those with addictions to have support getting into long term recovery. Treatment center.

I have been wanting to start a small business in Winona for a long time, but the zoning strongly restricts my ability to start. From What I've heard, it's extremely difficult to get zoning changes. I wish Winona was more open to change, and allowing the businesses to succeed and thrive. We always talk about supporting local businesses, and encouraging more small local entrepreneurs, but them limit access. It doesn't make sense.

I do not want to see the land swallowed up by corporations or become a place to move to to build retirement properties and townhouse real estate developers.

I hope it really takes into account the health and protection of our natural resources for future generations. Including supporting environmental protections, supporting sustainable farming and the positive mental health that comes with engaging in the outdoors.

There is a natural focus on the City of Winona whereas so many of us live outside town. I'm not one of those woe-is-me because of that fact. But as I thought about these survey questions, I find myself wanting to suggest that we think beyond the city at every point. One example is to ask if you sent this to every township board/clerk? I went to our August meeting and heard nothing; nor is there anything on our (admittedly hopeless) website or in the July meeting minutes. The outreach, the asking, is important, over and over and every time.

Have the police stop driving by bars constantly!!!!

I think Winona County is a unique place in Minnesota. While many seem to see a sort of Urban/Rural split, I think this diversity of lifestyles is what makes Winona's community so special. I believe there is strength in the diversity of our lived experiences, and I think, thus far, Winona County has done a good job of providing folks with the opportunity to live how they want to live. I know that I have had the opportunity to live my life on my own terms, and I hope that Winona County can continue to provide opportunity to residents both new and old.

I hope taxes can be lowered and businesses can thrive so us citizens have more money to spend at local businesses to grow the economy to the highest level possible

Celebrate the diversity of our students.

We need more revenue to maintain county roads. The wheelage tax that EVERYONE ELSE utilizes needs to be approved here.

Do not relax limits on large feedlots.

It was once said to me "Winona is the only place that ran from the river" I would love to see more opportunities on our bodies of water - fishing tournaments, and stuff. I don't want to say be more like La Crosse.. but they are doing some interesting things over there. Through this survey, I'm really only talking about the city. I think what would be great is a centralized hub with everything offered in the county. - businesses, parks, trails, etc.

We are in desperate need of third spaces that do not involve alcohol and have things for all age groups to participate in for low/no cost. Post-covid is a challenging time for community and relationship building with no third spaces that are alcohol free and not faith based.

It's a great place to raise a family but when you drive around many people need to have a little up updating cleaning up around house maybe Winona clean up week with people helping others do landscaping taking away trash et. Just a clean up the neighborhood week! Not all people can afford a lot but if help was provided it will help.

Agriculture is undeniably valuable to the economy of the county. Officials need to realize the importance of that.

Keep prices and taxes down

We need to build for the future, and not just for tomorrow. I felt that not combining a new jail and law-enforcement center was a disappointment, and now we are going to spend millions of dollars more to pay for a law enforcement center that is necessary. County officials tried to save money and build for tomorrow, instead of the future, and now the taxpayers are paying for it. We could have had an entire law-enforcement center and jail for a fraction of the cost that it's going to cost taxpayers now, and that falls on county officials. Instead, we have a law-enforcement center that is a joke, unkept, outdated, and a disgrace to work in. It's embarrassing to walk into a building, having to walk past old jail cells that inmates would throw feces on and urinate on the floor, all because we were too cheap to demolish the old jail. Now we are paying for that years later and are going to pay way more than we should have had we done it combined with the new jail. I wish County officials would be open to the community about why building a new law-enforcement center is so expensive now, and I wish they would be truthful and tell the community what it could have been just a few years ago. I like Winona County, but I'm not fond of County officials and administration.

Work on keeping the old architecture of this town we have a beautiful town. We don't need brand new buildings going up like you're blocking the view of the most beautiful thing we have and that's our river in

Bluffs are roads. You can barely drive on without popping a tire. look at the community look what we really need. We don't need any more fast food restaurants we don't need any more bars. This town needs to be cleaned up preserved get more restaurants more shopping and affordable housing not luxury housing bring old Winona back you cut down the trees that line our streets that we're supposed to be known for you don't replant the trees come on work on the old Winona what it used to be and do we need another prison that's pretty much what our jail is is a small prison so why can't everyone share it? Why do we need one for county and one for city? We've had the same place for how many years to work together why can't they keep doing it just more money and the people running this town's pockets .

Please consider helping and encouraging small businesses wherever you can. Minnesota is not the friendliest state when it comes to small businesses, but Winona county can work to be the exception.

Please use common sense and set realistic goals for the future of our county that gives all types of people and businesses the opportunity to flourish. Agriculture is a vital part of our county, please consider this in your decision making.

We need to get DEI out of everyone's lives

Winona County is very fortunate to have a top-notch agricultural industry. Many of the farmers are recognized by the MN Dept of Ag as among the best in the state. Winona County should support the growth of agriculture for future generations which will benefit everyone in the county and the state.

More adult living facilities.

Need lower taxes all the way around.

Fix Broadway the way it should have been done with the road diet. Instead you gave up the money and made a huge mistake.

We need more growth in small towns, Lewiston, Stockton, Utica, Altura. Places like this need more housing. With no new houses taxes are beginning to push people out of these small communities as the tax base does not get spread out more.

The urge to grow, grow, grow is counter to what makes Winona County such a desirable location. Let Olmsted County become the big town on the little prairie and have Winona County be where folks come to escape for a day, a weekend.

I guess I see county government as rural issues since the city of Winona governs my immediate neighborhood. The county is about our natural resources.

Listen to THIS GENERATION. Millenials and Gen Z are 75% of the town that makes up the ideas and wants in this town.

Winona needs more diverse restaurants as the types of food are limited. I would love to see more preservation of the historic areas of the city such as the huff-lamberton mansion.

Perhaps the levels of government should be examined. Although townships were at one time valuable to residents, perhaps it's time to consider governing those areas by the county or adjacent city.

Better roads, atv/utv trails. Support farms and small businesses

Winona needs to focus less on building new apartment building and hotels that are making our downtown area less appealing. The focus needs to be preserving our downtown and making it more tourist/family friendly. More affordable for renters to come in a build a business.

Upgrade your buildings

Until housing costs decrease, the 30% rental law is killer for people trying to find financially appropriate housing.

We need to work hard to maintain our rural values as the basis of our policies.

Protect water quality, protect good farmland, protect ecological functions of the land, keep strong support of public education, develop more housing.

Need more rural voice on the county board.

There are many challenges ahead and most likely less government support. The county should be focused on building social capital and community networks that can support and strengthen the people and the natural environment/wildlife that is trying to survive/thrive here.

More investments in local businesses. There have been too many that closed their doors once I moved here. Downtown has great unique buildings but sadly there are more empty store fronts than occupied ones.

I would like the police force to make more of an effort to be a part of the full community, including marginalized folks. The police should be seen as trusted people who engage with the community. I would like to see meet and greets. To see cops volunteering for community building. To build bridges.

Thank you for all of the hard work involved in collecting this informational and evaluating it and compiling the results

Let Farmers Farm - City of Winona should not Dictate Winona County

Enforce laws on amish

Critical to update IT for improved efficiency. Please increase staff for snow removal.

Please consider development in the frame of county wealth and long term sustainable financial stewardship - big box stores, large lot sizes (even in subdivisions) require huge amounts of publicly funded infrastructure but do not produce the tax revenue over time to sustain maintenance. Please consider the Strong Towns approach to community wealth building!

Need to deal with nitrates poisoning the ground water.

community gardens. the abolition of the american lawn. backyard block villages. pathways. bike infrastructure. agricultural runoff control. conversion of monoculture crop land to regenerative pasture.

Balance the need of rural family farms with the quest for smaller organic farms. Review the animal cap.

It would be helpful to differentiate between what is the Winona County considerations from especially the city of Winona (the majority of the population) and other towns in determining focus efforts. Would like to see good coordination between and among entities since it is all residents tax dollars, no matter what governmental unit.

I appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the future of winona county.

Please don't make any large changes just because you think you must.

PLEASE FIX OUR RURAL ROADS. THEY ARE HORRIBLE. Also an indoor place for winter walkers. Neither college allows this anymore to my knowledge.

We should also think 50 years down the road.

I hope we can turn into a community that is safe for ALL people, and one that leads in taking care of our environment.

This is a beautiful county. I support our smaller food producers and all the efforts the county has made to improve surface and groundwater safety/cleanliness I fully support the county's feedlot size ordinance and the sand mining moratorium. Very forward thinking. We cannot sacrifice our water for any private entity. Thanks for soliciting our input!!

Thank you for the ability to have my thoughts considered. That is an extremely important part of being a satisfied citizen in the county.

Keep Agriculture strong. I'm on the Winona County SWCD Board. I see the changes farmers are making in soil health. And we help put conservation practices on the ground. More funding from the County would help tremendously. Many of the dollars spent on working with farmers and wages paid to staff stays in the County. It is a win win for the County. Thank you.

Our rate of death by overdose and suicide are exceptionally high(2nd highest per capita rate in all of MN). These are diseases of despair, and they are on the rise in the US, but locally we can act to change that. To make that change though, we need more than an 'updated vision' from our leaders. We need drastic action in the opposite direction we've been going to correct our course and ensure the future of this community. Please, whoever collates this data, urge whoever you report to to take a serious look at the situation and how their actions will kill or spare real lives of people in this community over the next 20 years.

The way Planning and Zoning is running it. There won't be a county left in a total me a disaster no common sense

Winona County Commissioners should consider yielding votes on rural topics to rural-elected commissioners, and vice versa. "Hundreds to thousands of fish kills are reported every year in MN. 9 out of 10 fish kills have nothing to do with agriculture" - Steven Schmidt of MPCA. Winona County's Pleasant Valley Creek and Beaver Creek used to be classified by MPCA as "Impaired Waterways" but they were de-listed in 2023 due to strong adoption of conservation practices by farmers. We are in danger of losing all dairy farms in the next few decades. Winona County needs the dairy cows in order to maintain alfalfa and other perennial crops on the erodible landscape. If the cows are pressured to leave, then row crop farmer monoculture and erosion problems will follow. "When the dairy farmer makes a profit, the money flows right down main street, USA" - Gordy Vick. Promote all dairy farms of all sizes in Winona County! Winona County used to rank as the second biggest dairy county in Minnesota. In a world of rapid farm vertical integration where our 200 to 400-cow dairy farms are competing with Texas and Kansas dairy farms of 20,000+ dairy cows on one farm, they need all the support they can get! ALSO, do NOT allow any more solar projects on non-highly erodible land. This flat land has the most fertile soil in the world, and this is the ONLY place where farms can spread manure bedding pack in the winter.

no more solar panels on tillable farm land; taxes too high;need less government

Let's make sure that we keep this a place where workign families can thrive, and we can all continue to work for a future where we all can love, appreciate and utilize the many things that make our home so special!

Free tuition for trade schools and be kind

A bus schedule that runs earlier and needs 20 minute intervals at stops - would work better for Winona. Can't get people to work on time makes folks buy bikes to get around. Makes winter difficult.

Rural access to public programs.

Let's be bold! Positive! And futuristic! What are our dreams?

Be more ag friendly

No more Rural businesses. We don't need anymore traffic

I appreciate seeing outreach for community input. I hope my words have some meaning to whomever reads this. I hope winona can feel happier, healthier, and more engaged/connected through the diverse community and communities we have.

Our county is so beautiful - it seems like there would be opportunities to reinvest and update our regional parks into revenue generation opportunities through camping fees, etc.

Incremental improvements over time that preserve and improve the best parts of our community while providing for the future.

Appendix B: "Other" Responses

(Q1) Are you a resident, worker, visitor, and/or business owner in Winona County? Select all that apply.

"Other" Responses

Worker at the farm

Spouse works for the farmer

part time resident

Property owner. Primary residence is WI

Retired

Volunteer First Responder

College student

Volunteer

Own farmland

Former business owner

Farm owner

Farmer

Homeowner

(Q4) Which of the Following Topics are Most Important for the Future of Winona County? Select All That Apply.

"Other" Responses

None

Smarter financial decision making. More focus on quality preservation of city owned parks and properties.

Continuing to fund the arts!

Keeping our roads paved !! Signage and street painting.

Affordable housing

Take down the building that looks over the Mississippi River right next to ace. The wood is rotten. On the Winona streets the nickname is "ROTTEN WOOD ESTATES" It is also very unsafe driving. A driver can't see around that corner with the railroad tracks. It's an horrible accident waiting to happen...

lower taxes even at the cost of reduced services

we do not want to be a safe haven for criminals!

affordable housing

Stopping corruption in county government

safe drinking water for rural wells

Housing for ordinary incomes AND protections for safe drinking water

Protecting small and mid-size farms that support our rural communities. Making sure rural citizens have clean, safe drinking water.ater.

affordable housing and other necessities

Water quality for residents

farming education and knowledge to teh non-farming community so they understand

Provide proper medical care to rural areas and low income

Lower spending county and state wide.

No More apartment complexes

Affordable housing

Housing

Social services--public health and food aid

Tourism

More shops and restaurants

Providing services for underprivileged

Housing

Protecting our water supplyl'm

Mental health resources

Strong focus on environmental *protections*.

Conserve the quality of soil, air, and water

The arts

Welcoming all people

Clean, safe drinking water for all, including rural well owners

Youth Development/Youth Programs

Efficient management of the welfare programs required.

Avoid government overreach

Some of the roads are in dire need of attention. Some roads have gotten new surfacing while others that needed it more have not.

Welcoming immigrants and refugees.

Affordable housing!

Family focused

Need more cows

Stronger engagement and support of the economically and socially disenfranchised

(Q5) Winona County is Planning for the Future. Please Select the Priorities You Believe the County Should Invest in Over the Next 20 Years.

“Other” Responses

Sports

Have jobs

Schools

None

Making life more affordable on residents.

Affordable housing and all-season help for the homeless.

Mississippi water quality!!

More places for families playground, skating rink, arcade.

Children

Creating splash pads and a better looking and usable levee

Arts

affordability for residents and less restrictions

do NOT bring more people-we have not the housing nor land for more!

Support of police and law enforcement

Kids activities- splash pad, indoor park

improve trust in quality education

Clean water!

Protection is different that drawing lines of acceptance - regulations - for what is safe: for drinking water, for habitat, for swimming and boating, for eating the fish people spend millions to catch. Our gem is our land and water and beautiful space; these things require an equitable hand to safeguard and make better. I'm not saying, "no row crops," but I am saying that riparian buffers and habitat corridors and bike paths should not be collateral damage. I'm not saying "no confined livestock," but a limit on how many get to shit in one confined space is good for the water we all are not even now able to presume safe. It is a reasonable demand that safe drinking water be a priority, an end goal, to whatever else we as a county accomplish.

Guaranteeing everyone has safe, clean drinking water.

Fix the roads

Let the dairy farms expand and create jobs

Preventing dairy and hog operations that are larger than the current rules allow.

Handicap accessible

small fire departments are always in need of additional funds

economic development and natural resources should not be viewed as opposing ideas.

social services

Funding for the arts

Safety

Welcoming ALL to be productive part of community

Affordable healthcare

Maintaining the view of the bluff around us. Not allowing tall building to continue to block the view. Our skyline should be the bluffs and sugarloaf. Not buildings.

We need to be preparing for the real, impending economic crisis. We need to develop deep resiliency. Community greenhouse and expanding the collection in the library are both VERY HIGH on my list of wishes.

Definition of protecting needs to be clearly defined

Improved public education

Prepare for emergencies like floods, or extreme heat, triggered by climate change.

Increase healthy housing, activities and care options for seniors.

Implementing strategies for addressing climate change

Reduce taxation!

Safety for vulnerable populations.

Those priorities will enhance and allow for the othe priorities to naturally develop.

Expanding public transportation operations

Increase to number of dairy cow's

(Q8) Which of the Following Housing Types Should Winona County Prioritize in Future Housing Development? Select All That Apply.

“Other” Responses

Family lives where husband works at the farm

Moved here for work

Senior living that is inclusive.

Less rentals, more affordable single family homes and homesteads.

Affordable townhomes

Better maintained rentals, housing prices are rising fast

Revising deteriorated neighborhoods into new affordable areas with narrow lots but common yard/activity space in center and house circled around for access.

And low income housing, were they take 30% of your income and all utilities are included.

Why does winona county feel they should prioritize any type? Has a deficit been found? Is there a market trend that winona county believes they should influence?

Seriously what you have done to senior housing is shameful! You placed mentally ill people who attack seniors into their apartments. Seniors had no chance! That is what you do to people here in Winona. Seniors and children are disposable to you! NO MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING! MAKE WINIONA A WORKING TOWN AGAIN! BRING BUSINESSES BACK- WHERE DID THEY GO?

Quit building in the bluffs

Affordable housing that is safe, clean, and well maintained. Often the most affordable options are poorly maintained, forcing residents to either suck it up or take legal action (which is expensive itself!)

Universal design that can be used by every member of the community.

I don't know what specifically Winona needs other than more affordable options

New rural housing developments should be encouraged to use sustainable practices like geo thermal.

Groceries near homes

Winona County (and the city) need to consider the cost of all their regulations that affect the investors, builders, owners... in their ability to afford to build here. If you want affordable housing you can't make it so expensive to build or remodel existing properties.

When you use "affordable housing options" as a choice, it needs to have a clear definition with either rent rates stated or target home sales prices listed. Even after that, it is an extremely, if not impossible, task to reach. Affordable housing is a buzzword, and the word cheap is intangible because it's based on each person's perspective. We need to add parameters; otherwise, don't use it at all.

renovation of existing properties rather than construction of new sites

Immediately we need senior housing but in the future....how many seniors will remain.

Small to mid-size neighborhoods with parks for every income bracket

First of all, the music hall project to purchase homes and bulldoze them for parking lots was an ABSURD allowance. I'm sick of greedy people buying residential lots to turn them into apartments or parking lots. WSU's student housing problem is a WSU PROBLEM. They should be pressured to maintain and build more housing. Adding Senior Living facilities is a short term band-aid to a problem that won't be one in 10-20 years. Winona needs more affordable houses (under 250k) for new families (NOT apartments, especially \$1800 a month ones!) I say this as a homeowner in Winona.

Multi-generational community housing

Investor developed housing rather than tax monies going to it with regulations adjusted to make that possible.

Stop using older rental properties for gov.subsidized housing

Some commercial development in the rural areas is a good thing. Not everyone likes to drive 20 miles for work.

Affordable housing includes the rest of the list.

Let free market principles decide housing types.

L

Family housing not funded by the county save rural agriculture land do not put houses and solar panels and towers on it

Housing for metal house safety folks

Housing developments need to stay within city limits. No more variances or conditional use permits for building homes

(Q10) What amenities do you look for when choosing a new home? Select all that apply.

"Other" Responses

Cheap

A beautiful place

We go where the job is

Work

Work at the farm. They give me what they have

Work

Safety

neighbors

Close to work

Close to my job

Affordability, thorough inspections, mold free and free of water damage, air conditioning, ample windows.

Proximity to highways

I own my home.

Cost

Taxes

to generate some income to offset high taxes; like small scale room rentals, kitchen resturants, home food production with out fees,liscenses and over regulation.dliscens fees and regulations.

Up to date utility infrastructure.

All of the above

Your home is what and who is around you also. Winona is not a big city and we should not want it to be

Safe environment. Low crime

Updatedness of home

Accessibility

Are older homes safe? Do they have health updates like free of mold/asbestos

density of the neighborhood or unit.

Roads, utilities, proximity to health care

The closeness to schools for the whole family

Condition of homes in the area

School options

Historical and slumlords have destroyed most of them.

Proximity to busy streets (i.e. not close, so to limit traffic)

Away from the railroad tracks

Privacy.

Updated interior.

Delivery (grocery, takeout)

Quality of public school

Walkability

vicinity to services like schools, hospitals/clinics, post offices

Not looking for housing

Property condition, condition of neighboring properties, quality/care of public infrastructure in the neighborhood

Accessibility

Location of school

Price

(Q16) What should Winona County's top economic development goal be?
Select one.

"Other" Responses

Invest in workforce development and education AND attract new retail opportunities

Supporting existing businesses AND focus on agriculture and rural businesses

More to do in country, small towns

Supporting existing businesses AND keeping store more

Support existing businesses AND keeping store more

All of the above

Focus on agriculture and rural businesses AND invest in workforce development and education

Support existing businesses and attract new retail opportunities

Focus on Agriculture and Rural Businesses, and Invest in Workforce Development and Education

Support Existing Businesses and Attract Major Employers

Support Existing Businesses, Focus on Agriculture and Rural Businesses, Attract Major Employers, and Attract New Retail Opportunities

Support Existing Businesses, Attract Major Employers, and Attract New Retail Opportunities

With emerging technologies, many factory works will be out of jobs very soon. a serious examination of employable job opportunities will be highly necessary

All of the above! And make life affordable again.

More different types of food, especially quick/to-go places that aren't burgers/sandwiches/pizza. For example, noodles and company, cafe yummy, etc.

Protecting natural beauty and clean water

previously stated, more home based business, med tourism,

Provide residential, owner occupied tax relief

Winona has lost so much! You need to bring manufacturing back and also farming community needs to be taught

Help local residents start their own business and support the development.

make the county a destination for sustainable business - labor, natural resources protected, quality of life focus, smart energy...

Support local foods and small and mid-size farms and growers.

Serving an aging population.

Attracting and supporting local small businesses

Allow for flexibility that will help increase our property tax income. By removing barriers for new constructions (which is already pricey) and allowing for commercial and industrial growth due to our approximatly to La Crosse WI and Winona MN which are both land locked therefore commercial and industrial demand is quite high.

County has to focus on its entirety not just the city of Winona. Focus on agriculture and natural resources

Support existing businesses and open to support incoming buidnesses

Get the homeless population downtown under control. It definitely has a negative effect on businesses downtown. Especially 3rd street. When working not feeling safe alone and needing to keep doors locked!!! This should not be happening! Not good for tourism either.

Support and educate local people in both development and opening small businesses.

housing, without adequate, affordable housing we will not be able to attract business, workforce

Allow more buildings to be built, even if only for housing. A building is a business.

convert commodity to community

Local small businesses

Casino

Attract/support for new/independent business owners downtown

Resident recruitment and housing - we have enough jobs and pay is great, but there are few homes for workers to live and little concerted effort to attract residents/tax base.

increase outdoor recreation opportunities - this will benefit all other sectors

(Q18) Where should the County focus when considering sustainability and resiliency goals? Select all that apply.

"Other Responses"

Comment from "enhancing public health" answer: No more dumping raw sewage from City of Winona.

Park & rec by Rushford

Enhancing ecology of open, natural spaces

Sound decision making that doesn't cost money to brainstorm.

Decrease homeless population

Rural transportation services

Encouraging natural landscaping in yards and parks for habitat. More community gardens.

This should be THE driver in every decision going forward.

One of Winona counties largest industries is agriculture. We need to maintain the ability of these family farming operations to continue to grow and thrive in Winona county.

Sewage/Human Waste and city runoff

Enough with the fake climate change crap and over done big Pharma healthcare practices.

More dog friendly areaa

We need to focus on flooding-- planting more trees and water gardens. Not allowing big concrete monstrosities in new construction (I worked in construction for years, this is a real problem we're going to start facing soon). We need to invest in updating road drains and having an adopt-a-drain program (they have one in Houston, TX). Also, there needs to be more coordinated community weather event planning-- phone trees, assigned locations, emergency preparation.

education for sustainability in every school and university

Public health includes ag conservation practices, soil and water health, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate adaptation.

Just fine do not need to change them

no more raw sewage from winona city in river

Leave people alone

Resident recruitment and tax base growth

Suppression of exotic/invasive species