

NEKOOSA COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

City of Nekoosa
Wood County, Wisconsin

-2018-

Prepared by:
Nekoosa Community Strategic Planning Committee

With Assistance of the:
Wood County UW Extension
Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning



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Nekoosa Community Strategic Plan 2017-18

Peter Manley, Wood County Extension Resource Agent, Facilitator & Editor

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Introduction

In July 2017, several Nekoosa residents inquired about strategic planning for the community of Nekoosa. The planning would include but encompass more than the Nekoosa City government and departments. A strategic planning proposal was developed by Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Agent and approved by the City Council. Participants met monthly from June 2017 to January 2018. In addition, a subcommittee developed at Nekoosa Community survey which was distributed and results analyzed.

Mandates

There were few formal mandates as this strategic planning group was not a previously organized group and was open to residents wishing to participate. Informal mandates related to how the participants wanted to interact with each other, such as: stretch boundaries, be affordable, take action and participate. Formal mandates were how the group agreed to approach strategic planning: be responsive, affordable, communicate, be ambassadors, and visible results. (Appendix A, page 5)

Stakeholders

Participants identified external and internal stakeholders. They were primarily groups identified in broad terms that could impact the community. External stakeholders included government, visitors, non-profits and the Ho Chunk Nation. Internal stakeholders included community groups and individuals such as residents, employees, businesses, civic groups and city government. (Appendix B, page 6)

SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Participants developed their SWOT analysis of the Nekoosa Community over two meetings. Internal Strengths related to river and water resources, affordable and small town feel, the variety of activities and good services.

Internal Weaknesses were about developing the downtown and community amenities, the need to diversify industry and low income levels.

External Opportunities related to the broad areas of potential collaborations especially among governments, community residents willing to work together, river and other natural resources and development opportunities.

External Threats included drugs and crime, population losses, the need for business diversity and competition from nearby communities.

(Appendix C, page 7)

Community Survey

A subcommittee developed a community survey which was sent out to residents in the fall, 2017. Survey results were used in the strategic planning deliberations. Over 200 surveys were returned. In addition, the entire junior class at Nekoosa High School completed 50 surveys.

Highlights of the survey include:

- 45% were in favor of consolidating municipal services with surrounding communities, only 22% opposed this
- The top 5 problems or challenges included: 1. Drugs/crime/safety; 2. Lack of economic development, diverse industry, businesses/future of the mill; 3. Utility bills, 4. Nothing for kids and families to do/boring, and 5. Jobs/lack of, good paying jobs, employment workforce development.
- The top 5 strengths or positives were: 1. Municipal services, 2. Sense of community/small town feel/close-knit, 3. Community events and activities, 4. Location along Wisconsin River/Natural Resources, 5. School system.
- The most important community characteristics were identified as: 1. Public Safety/Low Crime, 2. Municipal services, 3. Quality education opportunities, 4. Availability of Jobs and Workforce and 5. Economic development.

(Appendix G, page 13)

Prioritized Strategic Issues

Participants identified seven strategic issues important to Nekoosa at their October and November 2017 meetings. These issues were then prioritized using a voting process. The top two strategic issues were:

- How can Nekoosa retain and attract families from a variety of income levels to the community.
- How can Nekoosa improve and highlight the Wisconsin River.

Five additional strategic issues were identified.

(Appendix D, page 9)

Participants then developed strategies to address the top two strategic issues.

Strategies – Retain and Attract Families

Sixteen different strategies were suggested to help retain and attract families from a variety of income levels. Participants volunteered to spearhead some of these strategies. For instance, a resource center for new families is being pursued by Rick, Darla and Heart of Wisconsin employees. Participants expressed specific interest in pursuing strategies relating to residential development, attracting a motel, transitional housing, identifying affordable housing, revitalizing current housing, cleaning up properties and promoting technology and high-speed broadband access.

Remaining strategies may be taken up at later times or by other individuals.

(Appendix E, page 10)

Strategies – Improve Wisconsin River

Participants developed ten strategies to improve and highlight the Wisconsin River for Nekoosa. Participants volunteered to spearhead seven of these strategies. Participants expressed specific interest in pursuing: housing along the Wisconsin River, promoting recreational use of the river, visiting nearby river developments for ideas, developing WIFI in the park, developing summer programs for kids and revitalizing Walleye Days. Remaining strategies may be taken up at later times or by other individuals.

(Appendix F, page 12)

Next Steps

The immediate next steps are for participants to pursue the identified strategies for the top two priority strategic issues. Additional residents and other stakeholders can be brought on board to pursue these strategies.

Nekoosa, as a community, should review the strategic plan annually. It will be much easier to update each of the steps. Participants should reconsider the strategic issues by deleting some, adding others and reprioritizing which strategic issues to pursue and then developing strategies for them.

Lastly, it is hoped that Nekoosa leaders think strategically on an ongoing basis, not just at the annual strategic planning meetings.

APPENDIX A

Nekoosa Community MANDATES

(developed at 8/24/2017 meeting)

Formal Mandates

Formal Mandates prescribe what must or should be done under the organizations current charter and policies and under federal, state and county laws and regulations.

Levy limits, budget restraints (although voters may approve more \$)
Compliant with environmental regulations

Informal Mandates

Informal mandates may be embodied in election results, internal culture and belief systems, or community or key stakeholder expectations.

- Be responsive to stakeholders
- Stretch boundaries, be visionary, leadership
- Be affordable
- Communicate, share information
- Compromise for a common vision
- Be ambassadors for the group, believe in progress
- Take action, visible results
- Participate, be available
- Collaborative

Facilitated and edited by Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Agent
Definitions: Creating Your Strategic Plan; John Bryson & Farnum Alston

APPENDIX B

Nekoosa Community

Stakeholders

(developed 8/24/2017, updated 9/28/17)

External Stakeholders

An External Stakeholder is any person, group or organization outside the organization that can make a claim on the organization's attention, resources, or output or is affected by the organization's output.

- City, state, federal governments
- Surrounding communities
- Mutual aid entities
- Visitors – pleasure
- Visitors – work
- Non-profits, civic groups
- Ho Chunk Nation

Internal Stakeholders

An internal stakeholder is any person, group or other entity inside the organization that can make a claim on the organization's attention, resources, or output or is affected by the organization's output.

- Residents
- Businesses
- School District families
- Mill employees
- Business employees/owners
- Non-profits, civic groups
- City government, government entities
- School District
- Cranberry growers
- Casino
- Ho Chunk people

Facilitated and compiled by Peter Manley, Wood County Extension Resource Agent

Definitions: Creating your Strategic Plan; John Bryson, Farnum K. Alston

APPENDIX C

NEKOOSA COMMUNITY

SWOT Analysis

(developed on 9/28/17)

Internal Strengths

Internal Strengths are resources or capabilities that help an organization accomplish its mandates or mission.

- Wisconsin River – location/access/boat launches/scenic beauty/riverfront/recreation
- Affordable housing
- Access to full school system
- Local shopping and restaurants
- Room for businesses to grow downtown
- Small town community
- Friendly and close-knit residents
- Safe and supportive community
- Year round activities
- Full level of municipal service
- Bike and pedestrian trail
- Grocery store
- Close proximity to Tri-Lakes and Lake Petenwell
- Great paper industry history
- Pumpkinfest
- Close proximity to larger cities
- Public Library
- Casino (attraction & traffic)
- Close to technical colleges, university

Internal Weaknesses

Internal Weaknesses are deficiencies in resources or capabilities that hinder an organization's abilities to meet its mandates, fulfill its mission or create public value

- Lack of long range vision for city improvements and planning
- Funding/how to afford the needs of the community
- Need for a forestry program
- Not enough community trails/routes/paths
- Business recruitment
- Lower resident involvement in community
- No drive through appeal (e.g. flags on light poles, plants, etc.)
- Downtown needs revitalization
- Differing opinions within local leadership
- Lack diversity in industry
- City cannot expand due to physical environmental limitations (e.g. river, wetlands, floodplain)
- Small labor pool
- Need to match job to labor pool values
- Population for retail is small
- Lower income/higher poverty level
- Burden of low income and poverty (higher %'s)

External Opportunities

External opportunities are primarily outside factors or situations that the organization can take advantage of to better fulfill its mission, meet its mandates, or create public value.

- More planning to provide direction and guidance for the city (economic development, recreation, housing, roads)
- Government financial organizations for rural areas
- Collaborations - REGI/school district/non-profits/city
- Develop strategy to educate citizens and area on Nekoosa services/opportunities
- Community is willing to work together to accomplish goals
- Christmas display/parade/fireworks
- Promote Nekoosa as a place to retire
- Promote as an area for businesses
- Community garden
- Pumpkinfest/Walleye Days
- Sand Valley, jobs, traffic, high caliber clientele
- Positive, optimistic people
- Cooperation amongst groups (churches, schools, city, volunteers)
- Teaching kids ownership and pride
- Internships for students
- Riverfront property
- River for touring
- Natural resources
- Lynn Creek open space area
- Industrial park
- Room to improve downtown
- Ability for partnerships
- Bridge crossing Wisconsin River
- Future splash pad

External Threats

External threats (challenges) are primarily outside factors or situations that can affect your organization in a negative way – making it harder to fulfill its mission, meet its mandates, or create public value.

- Funding/Budgets
- Drugs/Crime
- Low income/poverty
- Not actively pursuing jobs and businesses to move here
- Lower test scores
- School losing staff
- Decreasing population
- Other communities in area proposing projects and plans for economic development
- Lack of collaboration between government/business/residents
- Lack of manufacturing diversity

Facilitated and compiled by Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Agent
Definitions from Creating Your Strategic Plan; John Bryson, Farnum K. Alston

APPENDIX D

Nekoosa Community Prioritized Strategic Issues

(developed 10/24/2017, updated 11/29/17, prioritized by voting)

How can Nekoosa retain and attract families from a variety of income levels to the community? 9 votes

(There were 9 suggestions for this issue.)

How can Nekoosa improve and highlight the Wisconsin River? 7 votes

((There were 2 suggestions for this issue.)

How can Nekoosa create a positive perception of Nekoosa? 6 votes

(There were 5 suggestions for this issue.)

How can Nekoosa lower expenses for our local taxes and stakeholders, yet maintain services? 5 votes

(There were 3 suggestions for this issue.)

How can Nekoosa address shortages in its available workforce? 2 votes

(There were 2 suggestions for this issue.)

How can Nekoosa attract families from a variety of income levels? 1 vote

(There was 1 suggestion for this issue.) (Note: the phrase “from a variety of income levels” was also inserted into the top priority strategic issue at the 11/29/17 meeting.)

How can Nekoosa develop a diverse industry base that supports families?

(There were 4 suggestions for this issue.)

Note: at the 10/24/17 meeting there was preliminary discussion that a strategic issue related to drug use needed to be added.

Compiled by: Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Educator.

APPENDIX E

NEKOOSA Community - Strategy Development

Strategic Issue: How can Nekoosa **retain and attract families** from a variety of income levels to the community?

STRATEGIES

Develop a **resource center** with information on jobs/benefits/housing for residents.

Information could be at the library, the school and city hall.

Volunteers: Darla, Rick, HOW

Timeline: spring

Develop a strategy for **residential development** in Nekoosa. Target specific locations, such as river areas and blighted area rehabilitation. Encourage homeowners to improve their properties.

Volunteers: Rick, Bob, Brian K

Timeline:

Encourage a developer to build a **hotel**.

Volunteers: Mayor (ongoing)

Timeline:

Develop **transitional housing for new employees** for use by school, city or industry. (May involve encouraging a developer.) The purpose is to have new employees locate in the community while they decide where to live permanently.

Volunteers: Terry, Shane Reusch

Timeline:

Identify affordable housing. (Determine jobs available, then income and then rent or payments that can be afforded.)

Volunteers: Baseline study (Planning and Zoning)

Timeline:

Revitalize current housing and promote home repair programs. Use existing programs for low income.

Volunteers: Rick, Jason Gruenberg

Timeline:

Homeowners take responsibility for **cleaning up** their property.

Volunteers: City Council, Ordinance Officer, Ways and Means Committee

Timeline:

Develop **spec housing** using vacant land. Work with a developer.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Bring **family-friendly amenities** to Nekoosa (examples: splashpad, Pumpkinfest).

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Encourage/support a **strong school district** (respected, rural, smaller student population, strong standards, values).

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Improve **ACT Scores** at school to improve reputation.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Review and implement **comprehensive plan**. (Addresses jobs, affordable services & schools.)

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Advertise to the values of the people you want to attract. Find out the values of **millenials**.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Address **drug use** issue. Promote awareness, “hot spots” approach, repeat offenders.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Promote “**small-town**” feel. Brand Nekoosa.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Promote technology, **high speed broadband** access and infrastructure.

Volunteers: Brian, Terry, Rob

Timeline:

Compiled by: Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Agent

APPENDIX F

NEKOOSA Community - Strategy Development

(developed 11/28/17, updated 12/18/17)

Strategic Issue: How can Nekoosa improve and highlight the Wisconsin River?

Strategies:

Improve and develop **housing** along the river. Examples: encourage condos on Point Basse Avenue, municipal dock, determine what Nekoosa controls.

Volunteers: Brian, Bob, Rick

Timeline:

Improve/promote **eagle and osprey** habitat along the river. Cooperate with Domtar. A low priority.

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Change **perception of river pollution**. (Examples: mayfly hatch, Pumpkin Fest, walleye fry/boil.)

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Promote recreational use of river: canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard etc. Examples: portage education, kayak races, partner with Domtar.

Volunteers: Rick, Terry

Timeline:

Visit **nearby river developments** for ideas. (Examples: Wisconsin Rapids, Omro, Mauston.)

Volunteers: Rob, Terry, Brian K.

Timeline:

WIFI in the park.

Volunteers: Brian, Council

Timeline:

Summer **programs for kids** on river. Promote safety and recreation. Fishing contest for kids.

Volunteers: Brian G.

Timeline:

Identify **outdoor recreation plan** and apply for grants or donations

Volunteers:

Timeline:

Urban Forestry grant to identify and improve trees

Volunteers: Rick

Timeline:

Revitalize **Walleye Days**

Volunteers: Howard Freeman, Rick

Timeline:

Compiled by: Peter Manley, Wood County UW Extension Resource Agent.

Community Survey Summary

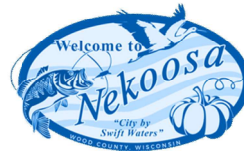
Nekoosa Community Strategic Plan

December 2017



Compiled by:

Nekoosa Community Strategic Planning Committee



In collaboration with:

Wood County Department of Planning & Zoning

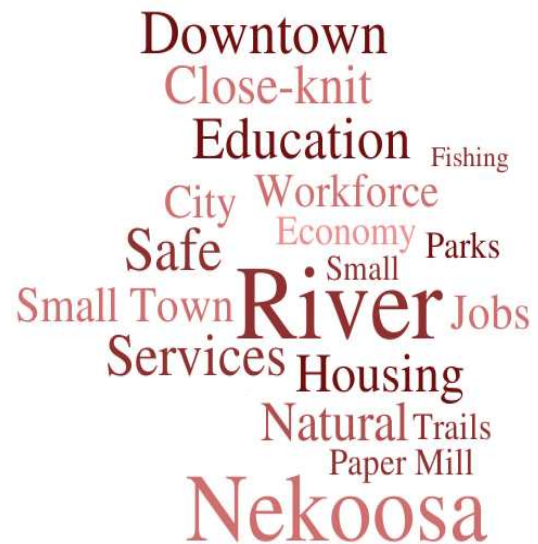


INTRODUCTION

The Nekoosa Community Strategic Planning Committee began developing a Strategic Plan in the fall of 2017. A public participation strategy was identified early in the planning process to incorporate an accurate representation of public opinion into the plan. A community survey was one means of collecting public input. Surveys were mailed out to each household receiving a municipal utility bill. Over 200 surveys were completed and returned. Additionally, over 50 surveys were completed by Nekoosa High School students. Student responses are specifically tabulated for certain relevant questions.

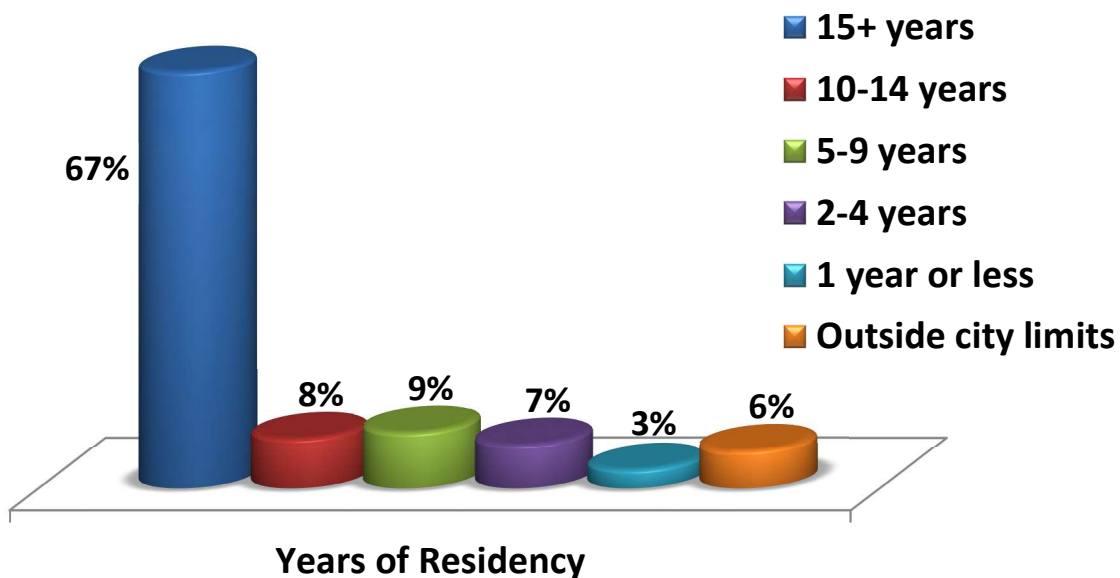
The survey gathered information on community values, priorities, and attitudes that will shape and guide the future of Nekoosa over the next several years. The input collected through this survey was utilized by the Strategic Planning Committee in the development of a strategic plan.

This report presents numeric tabulation and graphic representation of the questions and answers in the community survey.



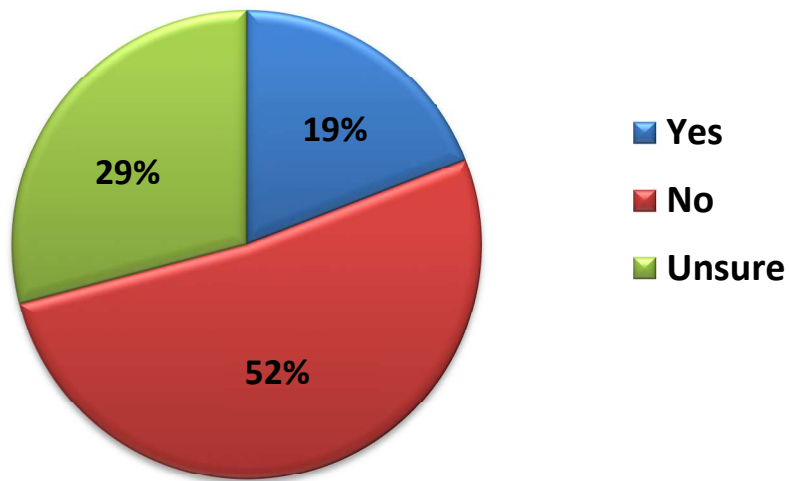
Question 1: How long have you resided in Nekoosa?

- 67% = 15+ years
- 8% = 10–14 years
- 9% = 5–9 years
- 7% = 2–4 years
- 3% = 1 year or less
- 6% = Live outside the city limits



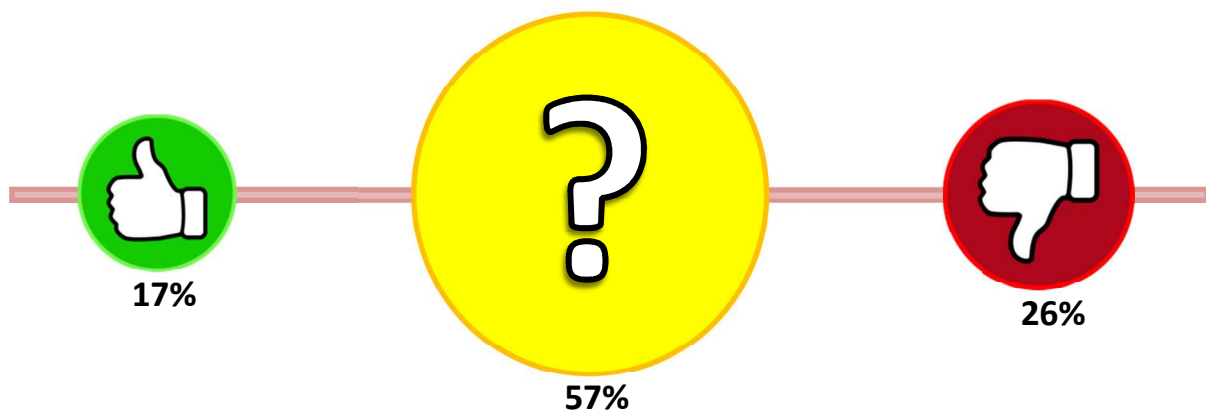
Question 2: Do you have plans to move away from the community within the next five years?

- 19% of respondents answered Yes *(Student response: 51%)*
- **52% of respondents answered No** *(Student response: 9%)*
- 29% of respondents answered Unsure *(Student response: 40%)*



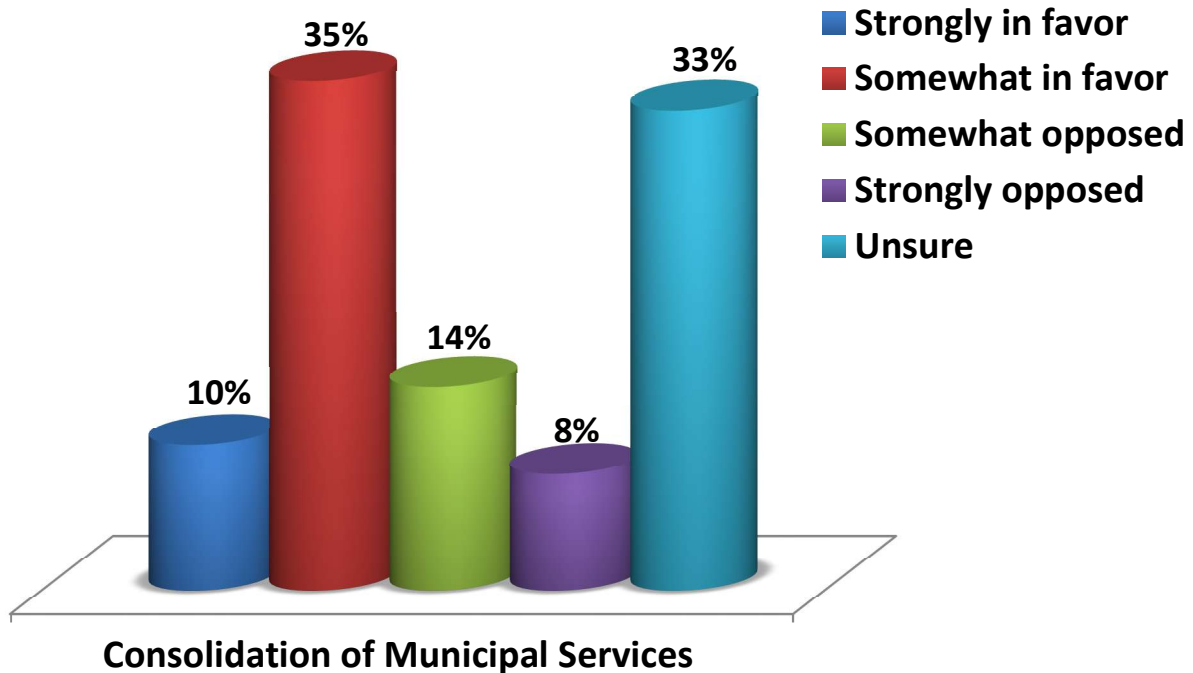
Question 3: Overall, where is the community headed?

- 17% of respondents said Right Track *(Student response: 6%)*
- 26% of respondents said Wrong Track *(Student response: 44%)*
- **57% of respondents said they were Unsure** *(Student response: 50%)*



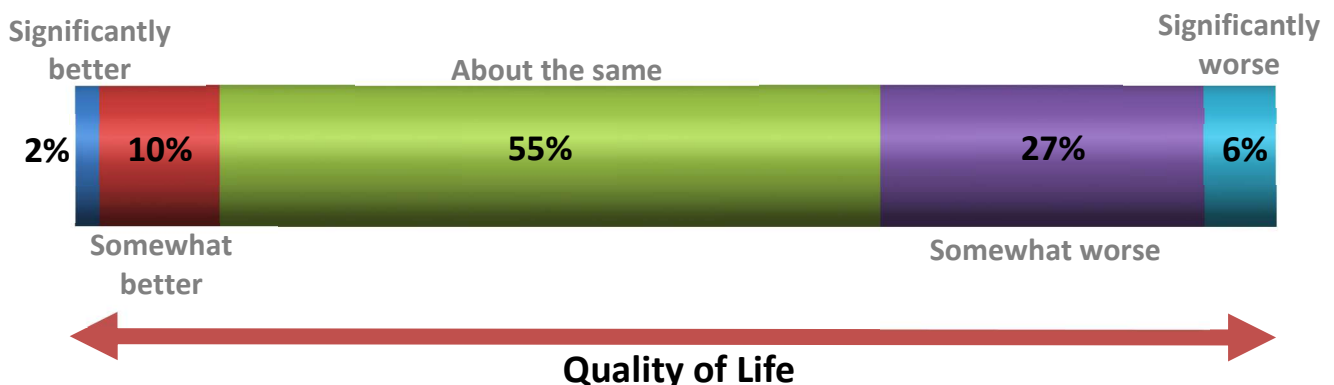
Question 4: Should the City of Nekoosa consider consolidating municipal services with surrounding communities?

- 10% of respondents were strongly in favor
- **35% of respondents were somewhat in favor**
- 14% of respondents were somewhat opposed
- 8% of respondents were strongly opposed
- 33% of respondents were unsure



Question 5: How do you think the quality of life in the community will be five years from now?

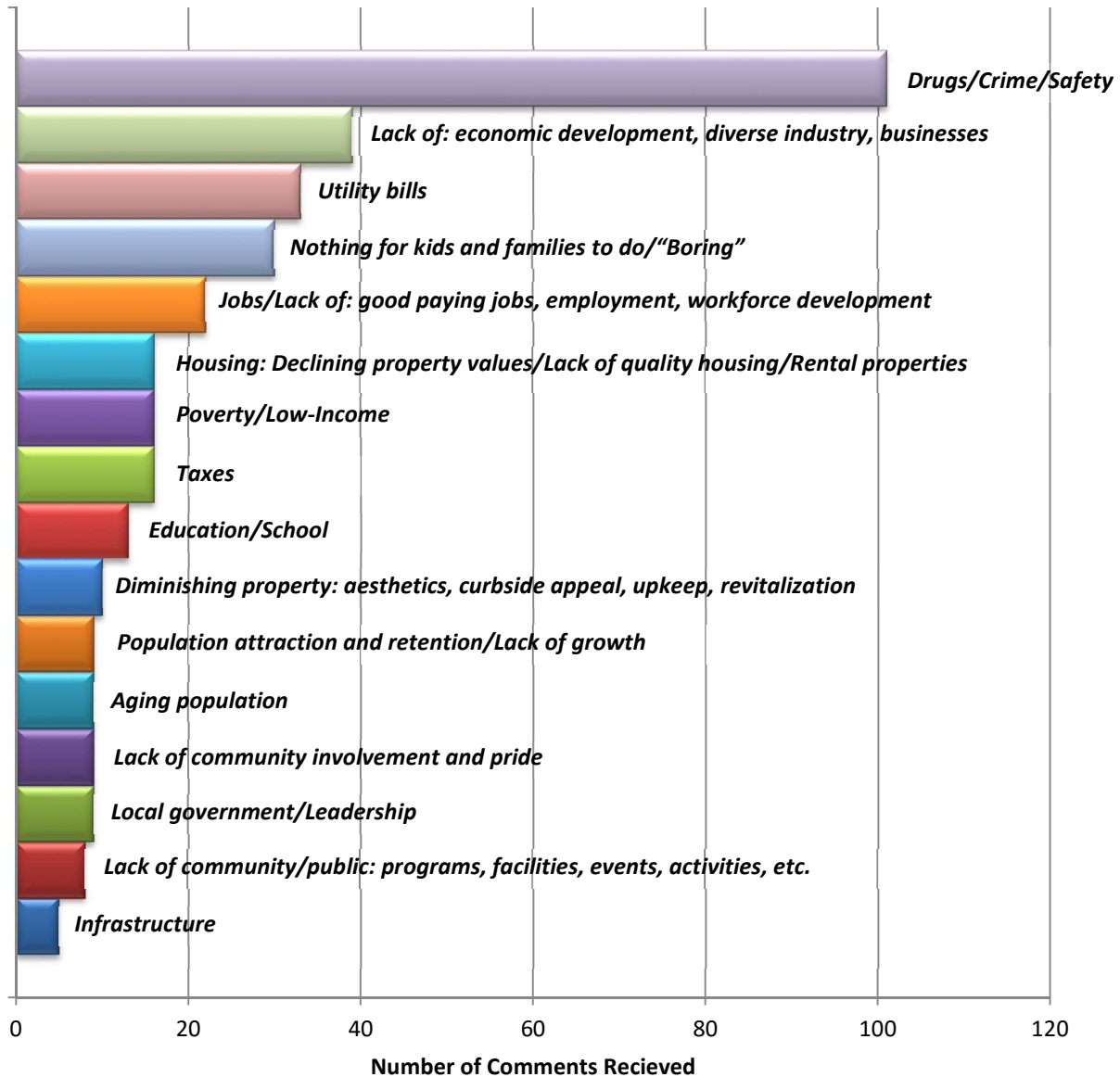
- 2% of respondents said Significantly better *(Student response: 2%)*
- 10% of respondents said Somewhat better *(Student response: 9%)*
- **55% of respondents said About the same** *(Student response: 51%)*
- 27% of respondents said Somewhat worse *(Student response: 36%)*
- 6% of respondents said Significantly worse *(Student response: 2%)*



Question 6: What do you see as the most important problem or challenge facing the community?

➤ Top five problems or challenges:

- **1- Drugs/Crime/Safety**
- 2- Lack of: Economic development, diverse industry, businesses/Future of mill
- 3- Utility bills
- 4- Nothing for kids and families to do/"Boring"
- 5- Jobs/Lack of: good paying jobs, employment, workforce development



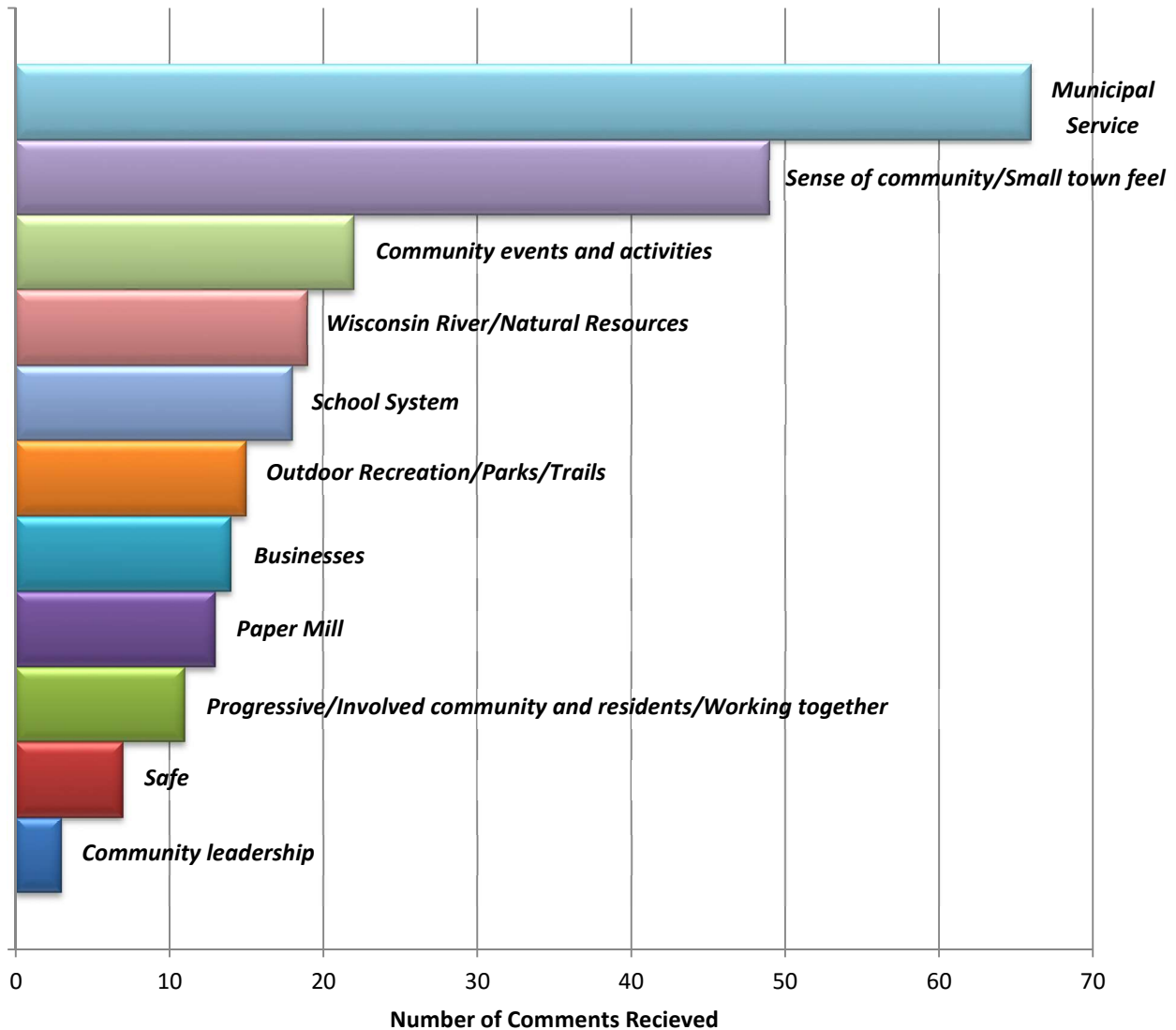
Student Response:

- 1- Drugs/Crime/Safety
- 2- Nothing for kids and families to do/"Boring"
- 3- Population attraction and retention/Lack of growth
- 4- Jobs/Lack of: good paying jobs, employment, workforce development

Question 7: What do you see as strengths or positives for the community?

➤ Top five strengths or positives:

- **1- Municipal Service (Police, Fire, EMS, City Staff/Departments, Library, Community Center, etc.)**
- 2- Sense of community/Small town feel/Close-knit
- 3- Community events and activities
- 4- Location along the Wisconsin River/Natural resources
- 5- School System



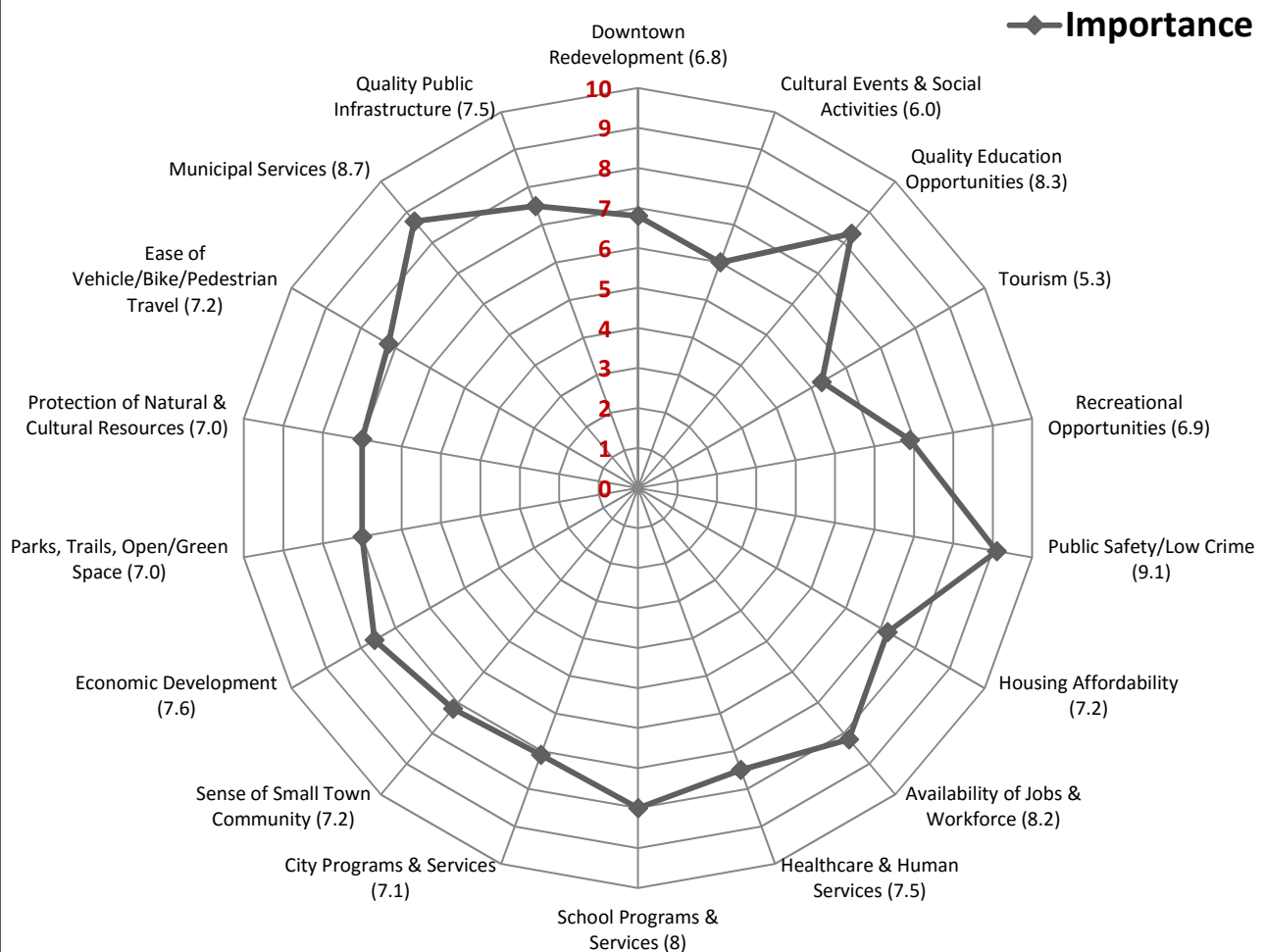
Student Response:

- 1- Sense of community/Small town feel
- 2- Progressive/Involved community and residents/Working together
- 3- Businesses
- 4- Community events and activities
- 5- Outdoor Recreation/Parks/Trails

Question 8: How important is it to you personally, that your community possesses the following characteristics on a 10-point scale?

➤ Top five highest average importance ratings:

- **1- Public Safety/Low Crime (9.1)**
- **2- Municipal Services (8.7)**
- **3- Quality Education Opportunities (8.3)**
- **4- Availability of Jobs & Workforce (8.2)**
- **5- Economic Development (7.6)**



Student Response:

- 1- Public Safety/Low Crime (8.2)
- 2- School Programs & Services (7.8)
- 3- Municipal Services (7.7)
- 4- Quality Education Opportunities (7.5)
- 5- Availability of Jobs & Workforce (7.4)

Question 9: Additional comments or suggestions?

- The police department is doing a great job trying to combat the drug problem in Nekoosa.
- You know there is a problem with drugs. Take care of the problem. Better patrolling of all streets in the city.
- Make city safer.
- Light up the city/downtown, brighter street lights. If you want crime to go down. Also other street lighting.
- K-9 Dog
- Drugs are of major importance-when I moved out here it wasn't as prevalent as it is now. Something needs to be done.
- Keep drugs out of our area.
- Would like to see the traffic slowed down on Market St, Cedar St and Wood Ave.
- Water and sewer costs are too high!
- Water and sewer rates are expensive.
- Our water bills are also a deterrent for home buyers.
- Water bill is higher than what I am used to.
- For the area taxes are way too high as is the joke of a water bill.
- Fund the basic needs. Keep city services costs low
- Something that concerns us & others on fixed incomes is keeping prop. Taxes + water/sewer bills lower. Thank you!
- Use County for police protection.
- Do not hire school kids in summer. Make city works do their own job. What are they getting paid for?
- Duplication of services for Nekoosa and Port Edwards is not fiscally responsible for either community.
- What municipal services would be consolidated? How would that affect cost?
- We have a great crew in our city workers as they are always there to pick up leaves, grass and branches at no charge.
- Police are getting retarded. Pulling people for 6 mph over on a road marked 35 but should be 45.
- The City of Nekoosa should consider consolidating municipal services with surrounding communities if they can continue to provide good services at a lower cost.
- Should look at just one director for all emergency services.
- Taxes are higher than what I am used to.
- Lower taxes!!!!!!
- For the area taxes are way too high as is the joke of a water bill.
- Lower your taxes. Honestly what is keeping people here? My husband and I are looking elsewhere.
- Cutting taxes.
- Something that concerns us & others on fixed incomes is keeping prop. Taxes + water/sewer bills lower. Thank you!
- Smaller cities have nicer flowers downtown, nicer store fronts and better sidewalks.
- Sweep dead end roads and mow.
- Would love to stay but am seeing the city going in the wrong direction. City seems to appeal to lower income population. Would be a nice community for baby boomers to retire in. It's all just so sad.
- You destroyed the pool, built a dollar general and now more low-income housing.
- Has really gone downhill. As long as Nekoosa has the low income. Apartments, the drugs and low-life's that live there will rise.
- We have enough low income housing.
- Collaborate with the school system for youth programs.
- Principal at high school needs to go.
- We need to partner with a larger/regional economic group and create a vision around our "sense of place" and market that feeling to families.
- We need to draw more young families and our school system would be that vehicle.
- If I didn't work in the area and my house was worth anything I would move.
- I do not see us growing as a community, we are stagnant. I really do not see us growing in the future. We have not for many years now.
- Growing in Christ-more people filling church.
- Likewise for the property littered with trash, un-mowed lawns and peeling paint. Residents should be held responsible for the upkeep of their homes.
- I'm not considered as being low income so I don't qualify for any state or local assistance. It would be nice if there was a program in place for people like me to be able to update our exteriors of our homes.
- Some houses are looking pretty shabby and making neighborhoods look awful.
- Better upkeep of properties- Cleanup/repair individual homes and properties.
- The state of some people's properties needs to be addressed and trash in yards.
- We as a community need to focus on all ages of people in Nekoosa. Not just old folks, we need things in our community for all ages to go out and do.
- It's okay to aim for the older generations of this community but just remember there's a younger generation having to live here like me. Personally, where they built these old folks apartments they should have built an outdoor pool or an indoor pool for Nekoosa and Port
- Concentrate on being high quality residential community.

- We need to bring property values up!
- Repair of downtown. Fill in holes from floods in park. Repair of city streets.
- Repave Fairview Lane. Road sucks.
- We need new signage on the corner of Vilas Ave & 7th Street. People drive right through the stop sign. Somebody's child is going to get hit by a car someday!
- Nekoosa has prepared itself well for the future. The infrastructure has been updated.
- We need much better cemetery maintenance. Trimming and road repairs. Get rid of the geese in Riverside Park!!!!
- Roads need work.
- I would like to see a cut out of the curb (like the one by the Credit Union) by the cemetery, right before you go down the hill to go to the park. A lot of bikers get off the trail and ride the road behind the Catholic Church and ride the side roads.
- Would be nice to have an exit/entry ramp near cemetery for the bike trail.
- City officials need to be thinking of the future of Nekoosa. Also, the NOW of Nekoosa. Work for many goals. Not just one or two.
- City & residents need to have better communications - remember, we pay your wages.
- New ideas are needed to much of the "good ole boys mentality". Get people who are educated in positions of power.
- More activities for children and teens.
- We really need a pool, not just a splash pad.
- Something for kids to do. New basketball courts. New ones are just old hoops on crappy concrete.
- We need more things to make the community more appealing and make it more fun for all ages.
- Need to do more things for the kids of Nekoosa.
- Lines on tennis courts to include pickle ball court.
- Repair existing recreational opportunities before bring new ones in.
- Love the Christmas lights in the park. Good idea!!!
- Need to allow a ATV/UTV route in town.
- Connect the bike path to go thru the downtown area or down 1st street and connect to the high school proposed trail from a few years ago. Thank you!!!!!!
- UTV trail access.
- ATV trail through Nekoosa. This would allow ATV's to cross the WI River Bridge and would bring business to the community and add recreational opportunities.
- Extend the bike trail. Work with National Audubon Society to create more bird watching. Nita first would help with the school districts native trail.
- Access to ATV & UTZ trails.
- Drain tile in park. Enclose one shelter in park to be rented out.
- I believe an ATV/UTV trail would help businesses and tourism. Since this is the only bridge that you can drive over the WI River we should use to our advantage.
- Open roads for ATV/UTV use.
- Have a newspaper, 3 main churches together to offer programs and services to the community. Promote activities on Facebook, TV, radio, etc.
- The Pumpkinfest is great. Now build up the Hometown Christmas more to attract more revenue. Maybe consider a street dance in the future.
- Community events are crucial to a strong will to stay together and work together.
- It's a great city to live in!! Been here for 35 years since moving from Buffalo, NY. I love it. Will miss it when I move.
- For a small town Nekoosa is fine.
- Keep small town living realistic-not every services opportunity needs to be on a big city scale to increase every budget. Keep it small.
- None at this time. We don't really care to say any more. We think the community is going alright.
- I am glad we still have Piggly Wiggly. I know people from Wisconsin Rapids who come here to shop.
- Alderperson does a great job of communicating issues and their effect on the taxpayer.
- Inform public of help they can get.
- As a community we need to have more unification and less ignorance. We shouldn't be afraid of change.
- Think more about the future. Don't make all the decisions just based off of money.
- Be more environmentally orientation.
- I wiped paper, no finger prints, "Anonymous"!!!
- The river has potential for drawing tourists.
- Riverside Park is the nicest thing about Nekoosa.
- Also the noise from the mill is getting worse!
- The south & South West of town is being pounded by excessive mill noise!

The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning would like to thank all who participated in the planning process.



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