



Resident Survey Overview

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Executive Summary

The Wauconda Resident Satisfaction Survey delves into the valuable insights gathered from the community members through a recent survey initiative. This comprehensive report aims to provide a deep understanding of the strengths, concerns, and aspirations of Wauconda residents, ultimately guiding future development and improvements. Within this document, we explore the positive facets of the community, address raised concerns, offer meticulous data analysis, and provide thoughtful recommendations. It underscores the pivotal role of community engagement in driving positive change.

The Village of Wauconda Resident Satisfaction Survey serves as an invaluable resource for understanding the sentiments and viewpoints of the residents across various aspects of community life. This executive summary offers a concise overview of the survey's findings, spotlighting areas of high satisfaction and those warranting focused attention.

By delving into the survey results and recognizing the priorities and concerns expressed by the residents, we aim to empower the Village leadership with a clear roadmap for addressing the needs and desires of the community. We invite you to delve into the details of this report to gain deeper insights into the collective voice of Wauconda residents, and to chart a course that enhances the community's quality of life and future prospects.

Methodology

The survey conducted in Wauconda employed a structured approach to gather valuable feedback from residents and stakeholders. It was designed to assess the community's opinions and preferences regarding various aspects of local services and initiatives. The methodology included the distribution of the survey link through both online and offline channels to reach a wide audience. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Responses were collected over several weeks, allowing participants ample time to share their perspectives.

To ensure a comprehensive and unbiased representation of the community, a diverse group of respondents participated, including Village residents (91.63%), Unincorporated Township residents (6.65%), Local Business Owners (0.38%), and individuals falling into the "Other" category (1.33%).

Respondents were asked to provide their ratings on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating the lowest level of importance or satisfaction and 5 representing the highest. This rating system allowed for quantifiable analysis and comparisons across various services and initiatives.

Furthermore, the survey included open-ended questions, enabling participants to offer qualitative insights and suggestions. These qualitative responses provided valuable context and in-depth perspectives, enriching the overall findings of the survey.

Overall, the methodology of this survey aimed to capture a broad spectrum of opinions, allowing for a nuanced understanding of the community's sentiments towards local services and initiatives in Wauconda. The data collected through this structured approach serves as a valuable resource for decision-makers and stakeholders in shaping the future of the village.

Survey Results Overview – Ranked by Level of Satisfaction

In this section, we delve into the survey results, highlighting key aspects of community life that contribute to residents' satisfaction. By analyzing the data, we gain valuable insights into the strengths of our community, providing a foundation for continued growth and improvement.

Community Events Shine Bright: The survey revealed that residents hold a strong affinity for community events and gatherings, such as Wauconda Cruise Night and the July 3 Fireworks Celebration, which received the highest satisfaction rating with a weighted average score of 4.30. This underscores the importance of continuing to organize and support these events, fostering a sense of togetherness among residents.

Beautification Efforts Highly Appreciated: Residents are notably pleased with the beautification efforts of the Village, including initiatives like planting flowers and landscaping, which earned a favorable weighted average score of 4.10. This indicates that investments in enhancing the aesthetic appeal of public spaces are well-received and contribute to overall satisfaction.

Positive Experiences with the Police Department: Satisfaction with experiences or contacts with the Police Department also garnered a favorable weighted average score of 4.07. This reflects positively on the community's law enforcement efforts and suggests a strong sense of security and trust among residents.

Maintenance of Public Areas Leaves a Positive Impression: Residents express satisfaction with the maintenance of public areas, including mowing, litter pickup, landscaping, and tree trimming, with a weighted average score of 4.05. Maintaining the cleanliness and upkeep of these spaces contributes to a positive community environment.

Quality of Life: The quality of life in the Village of Wauconda received a commendable score with a weighted average of 4.01. This indicates that residents generally appreciate their quality of life in the Village.

Overall Services: Additionally, overall satisfaction with the services provided by the Village was rated positively, with a weighted average of 3.91. This suggests that residents have a generally positive perception of the services offered by the Village.

Community Engagement Remains Strong: The overall sense of community was rated favorably, with a weighted average score of 3.91. This indicates that residents feel a strong sense of belonging and connection within the Village.

Property Maintenance:

While generally positive, there is room for improvement in property maintenance enforcement (3.88) by the Village. This area may require focused attention to address resident concerns and ensure the cleanliness and upkeep of public spaces.

Communication Efforts:

While generally positive, there is room for improvement in communication efforts (3.76) by the Village. Enhancing communication can help address resident concerns and keep the community informed effectively.

Infrastructure and Streetscape: Satisfaction with the condition of Village streets, sidewalks, and storm drainage (3.53) received the lowest ranking among the surveyed aspects, indicating a potential need for infrastructure improvements.

Survey Results by Question:

In the following section, we provide the overview of responses to each question asked in the survey, along with specific rankings of each.

Question 1: Relationship to the Village of Wauconda

The majority of respondents identified as Village Residents, indicating a strong representation of the local community in the survey.

- Village Resident: 91.63% (482 responses)
- Unincorporated Township Resident: 6.65% (35 responses)
- Local Business Owner: 0.38% (2 responses)
- Other: 1.33% (7 responses)

Question 2: Quality of Life in Wauconda

A significant proportion of respondents rated the quality of life in Wauconda as "Good" or "Excellent," reflecting a generally positive perception of the community's living conditions.

- Very Poor: 0.38% (2 responses)
- Poor: 2.09% (11 responses)
- Fair: 18.63% (98 responses)
- Good: 53.80% (283 responses)
- Excellent: 25.10% (132 responses)

Question 3: Overall Sense of Community

Respondents largely viewed the overall sense of community in Wauconda positively, with a substantial number rating it as "Good" or "Excellent."

- Very Poor: 0.76% (4 responses)
- Poor: 3.23% (17 responses)
- Fair: 20.53% (108 responses)
- Good: 55.13% (290 responses)
- Excellent: 20.34% (107 responses)

Question 4: Communication Efforts of the Village

The Village's communication efforts received mostly positive feedback, with a significant number of respondents rating them as "Satisfactory," "Good," or "Excellent"

- Very Unsatisfactory: 2.09% (11 responses)
- Unsatisfactory: 6.08% (32 responses)

- Satisfactory: 27.76% (146 responses)
- Good: 42.21% (222 responses)
- Excellent: 21.86% (115 responses)

Question 5: Community Events and Gatherings

Community events and gatherings in Wauconda garnered high praise, with the majority of respondents rating them as "Good" or "Excellent."

- Very Poor: 0.57% (3 responses)
- Poor: 1.90% (10 responses)
- Fair: 11.98% (63 responses)
- Good: 38.40% (202 responses)
- Excellent: 47.15% (248 responses)

Question 6: Satisfaction with the Police Department

Residents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the Police Department, with a considerable number rating it as "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied."

- Very Unsatisfied: 0.76% (4 responses)
- Unsatisfied: 3.42% (18 responses)
- Neutral: 23.38% (123 responses)
- Satisfied: 33.27% (175 responses)
- Very Satisfied: 39.16% (206 responses)

Question 7: Importance of Enforcing Private Property Maintenance

The enforcement of private property maintenance emerged as a significant concern for residents, with a majority deeming it "Very Important" or "Extremely Important."

- Not Important: 4.56% (24 responses)
- Somewhat Important: 10.65% (56 responses)
- Important: 17.11% (90 responses)
- Very Important: 27.38% (144 responses)
- Extremely Important: 40.30% (212 responses)

Question 8: Satisfaction with Village Streets, Sidewalks, and Storm Drainage

Satisfaction with the condition of Village streets, sidewalks, and storm drainage varied, with a notable portion expressing satisfaction.

- Very Unsatisfied: 3.61% (19 responses)
- Unsatisfied: 15.40% (81 responses)
- Neutral: 20.15% (106 responses)
- Satisfied: 45.82% (241 responses)
- Very Satisfied: 15.02% (79 responses)

Question 9: Satisfaction with Maintenance of Public Areas

A majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the maintenance of public areas, reflecting the Village's efforts in this regard.

- Very Unsatisfied: 1.14% (6 responses)
- Unsatisfied: 4.37% (23 responses)
- Neutral: 12.93% (68 responses)
- **Satisfied: 51.90% (273 responses)**
- Very Satisfied: 29.66% (156 responses)

Question 10: Satisfaction with Beautification Efforts

The beautification efforts of the Village received positive feedback, with a significant number of respondents expressing satisfaction.

- Very Unsatisfied: 0.57% (3 responses)
- Unsatisfied: 2.09% (11 responses)
- Neutral: 16.16% (85 responses)
- **Satisfied: 49.05% (258 responses)**
- Very Satisfied: 32.13% (169 responses)

Question 11: Overall Satisfaction with Village Services

The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with Village services, indicating a generally positive perception of the services provided.

- Very Unsatisfied: 1.71% (9 responses)
- Unsatisfied: 4.75% (25 responses)
- Neutral: 16.35% (86 responses)
- **Satisfied: 55.51% (292 responses)**
- Very Satisfied: 21.67% (114 responses)

Question 12: Agreement with Wauconda's Bright Future

While a portion of respondents expressed uncertainty, a substantial number agreed or strongly agreed that Wauconda has a bright future.

- Strongly Disagree: 1.71% (9 responses)
- Disagree: 8.75% (46 responses)
- Undecided: 30.80% (162 responses)
- **Agree: 39.92% (210 responses)**
- Strongly Agree: 18.82% (99 responses)

Summary of Responses Regarding Wauconda's Prospects for the Future:

Based on the outcomes of a recent survey among Wauconda residents, we have identified noteworthy recurring themes. These themes encompass the perspectives of the community, encompassing both positive sentiments and areas that could benefit from improvement. This analysis underscores the significance of comprehending and acting upon the concerns and aspirations of the residents in shaping the future of Wauconda.

Positive Feedback:

- **Proximity to Chicago:** Residents value the unique blend of country-style living within proximity to Chicago.
- **Community Services:** The inclusive community programs, including support for all age groups and economic backgrounds, are appreciated.
- **Special Events and Maintenance:** The village's efforts in organizing special events and maintaining infrastructure, such as street repaving, have received commendation.
- **Childhood Memories:** Fond childhood memories of the town and its family-friendly environment are cherished by many residents.

Areas for Improvement:

- **Businesses on Main Street:** Residents express a strong desire for more businesses on Main Street, especially restaurants and shops. The closure of establishments like Middleton's and Bulldogs has been noted.
- **Future Outlook:** Residents generally believe in Wauconda's potential for a bright future but emphasize the importance of attracting and supporting businesses.
- **Property Taxes:** Concerns have been raised regarding property tax burdens, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by seniors on fixed incomes.
- **Development Needs:** There is a call for more businesses, such as grocery stores and restaurants, to generate tax revenue and enhance the local economy. Requests for an aquatic center and improved property maintenance enforcement have also been made.
- **Village's Role:** Some residents feel that the village could play a more proactive role in attracting and supporting businesses.
- **Infrastructure:** Suggestions include the need for additional sidewalks, improved maintenance, and addressing traffic-related issues.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Residents have voiced concerns about lakefront weed management and advocate for more tree planting and maintenance efforts.
- **Commercial Development:** Residents express a need for more commercial development and larger stores to meet local shopping needs.
- **Beautification:** There is a desire for beautification initiatives, including the planting of native trees and plants.
- **Community Engagement:** Positive comments highlight community engagement, neighborly care, and the significance of various events and programs.

Priorities identified by the Residents

In this section, we highlight the key priorities identified by residents in the Wauconda Resident Survey. These priorities offer a clear roadmap for the Village leadership to address the needs and desires of the community. Here is a concise summary of the results:

Business Development and Economic Development

- Business development and economic growth were frequently mentioned as top priorities by residents.
- The community expressed a desire for more businesses, both new and existing, to thrive and contribute to the local economy.
- Residents emphasized the importance of attracting a variety of businesses, with a focus on non-fast-food restaurants, retail stores, and services.
- Economic development efforts should aim to increase revenue, create job opportunities, and enhance the overall prosperity of the village.

Taxes

- Residents voiced concerns about property taxes and emphasized the need for measures to reduce or minimize the tax burden on homeowners.

Bangs Lake

- Bangs Lake is a valuable asset for the community, and residents expressed the importance of its maintenance and cleanliness.
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of those using the lake, particularly through responsible boating practices and weed control, was highlighted.
- Preserving and improving the quality of the lake contributes to the overall attractiveness and desirability of the village.

Safety

- Safety was a recurring theme in resident responses, encompassing various aspects such as public safety, traffic management, and school safety.
- Enforcing speed limits, enhancing police presence, and addressing concerns related to noisy vehicles and exhaust systems were among the safety-related priorities mentioned.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

- The maintenance of village infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, and public facilities, was a concern for residents.
- Residents expressed a desire for ongoing efforts to improve and maintain the physical infrastructure of the village, ensuring safe and accessible public spaces.

These priorities reflect the collective voice of Wauconda residents and provide a solid foundation for future planning and decision-making. By addressing these areas of concern and focusing on areas of excellence, the Village can work collaboratively with the community to enhance the quality of life and realize a brighter future for Wauconda.

Conclusion:

The insights provided in this report provide a deep understanding of the perspectives and priorities of the residents. The survey results reflect a range of sentiments, from overwhelmingly positive to areas where there is room for improvement. Here are some key takeaways:

Community Satisfaction: It is heartening to note that a significant majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with various aspects of life in Wauconda. These include the quality of life, the overall sense of community, community events, and the services provided by the Village. The strong sense of belonging and appreciation for community engagement underscores the importance of the shared values and connections.

Areas of Excellence: Residents have voiced their appreciation for community events, beautification efforts, and their positive experiences with the Police Department. These areas have garnered high satisfaction ratings, showcasing the success of ongoing initiatives that foster community cohesion, aesthetics, and safety.

Opportunities for Enhancement: While overall satisfaction is strong, there are areas where residents have indicated room for improvement. Notably, property maintenance enforcement and communication efforts stand out as aspects that may require focused attention to address resident concerns effectively. Additionally, infrastructure, including streets and sidewalks, emerged as an area where residents seek enhancements.

Community Priorities: The priorities identified by the residents are clear. Business development and economic growth are paramount, and the desire for diverse businesses to thrive in the community is evident. Addressing property tax concerns, maintaining the pristine condition of Bangs Lake, and enhancing safety measures are also top priorities. Furthermore, residents emphasize the need for continuous infrastructure improvements and the maintenance of public areas.

Optimism for the Future: It's encouraging to observe that a significant number of respondents agree or strongly agree that Wauconda has a bright future. This collective optimism serves as a foundation upon which the Village can build and shape the destiny of the vibrant community.

In summary, the Wauconda Resident Survey has provided the Village leadership with valuable insights into the thoughts and aspirations of the community. These findings can guide the efforts as Village leadership work together to enhance the community, address concerns, and continue fostering a strong sense of belonging among residents.