

Summary
RESIDENT SURVEY
PETERSON, MN
October 2011

The Peterson City Council has determined the best way to share the results of the resident survey is through the US mail. We used bold numbers and letters to indicate citizen responses. Please contact us if you wish to comment on the results of the survey.

Responses have been summarized, however exact words have been compiled. If you wish to see the complete summary, with all comments, please contact City Hall and make an appointment with Lolly Melander.

WHO WE ARE

1. Peterson is:
31 - my primary residence.
5 - my secondary residence.
3 - where I plan to retire.
1 - my place of business.

2. I choose to live in Peterson because: (please check all that apply)
29 - it is a safe, peaceful town in which to live.
16 - I have lived here for many years and plan to stay many more.
19 - taxes are low.
19 - it is a good place to raise a family.
9 - the park is an attraction.
26 - I appreciate the bluffs, river, and wildlife.
11 - of its close proximity to Rushford.
13 - of its close proximity to Winona, LaCrosse, and Rochester.
19 - I use the DNR trail for walking, running and/or biking.
8 - I grew up in Peterson
7 - Other

CITY SERVICES

3. Peterson Streets
34 - I am satisfied with annual cold tar patching.
3 - I am dissatisfied and therefore willing to increase taxes to pay for major repairs.

4. Park Maintenance (City Park with softball field)
34 - I am satisfied.
1 - I am dissatisfied because: **we need new, updated playground equipment.**

5. Park Maintenance (City Park with Gazebo)
34 - I am satisfied.
2 - I am dissatisfied **because I think many changes need to be made to restore its charm.**

6. Snow Removal
34 - I am satisfied.
2 - I am dissatisfied

7. Water and Sewer
29 - I am satisfied
5 - I am dissatisfied because **the price is too high.**

8. Electricity
32 - I am satisfied
3 - I am dissatisfied because the **price too high.**

9. Garbage and waste removal
32 - I am satisfied
3 - I am dissatisfied because the *price is too high.*

CITY BUSINESS

10. Please respond to the following statement.
I think we need to do more to attract businesses to Peterson.
23 - I agree with this statement – **with some reservations.**
7 - I strongly agree and am willing to offer tax incentives to new businesses. *Perhaps offer land or building?*
6 - I disagree and think our business community is adequate.

11. What types of new businesses would you support?

18 - Service station – *Need Badly*

8 - Coffee shop – *open on Sunday, add bakery*

6 - Book store

4 - Gift shop

9 - Beauty salon/barber shop – *perhaps open two days a week?*

4 - Other - *General store or just somewhere to grab a loaf of bread at 6:30 a.m. when you realize you are completely out would be fabulous., convenience store, bike shop (2), art gallery, antique shop, Kwik Trip, factory, school, nature center, International Book Town*

TOURISM

12. What might we do to continue to attract tourists to Peterson?

Quit fighting amongst ourselves.

Establish a “Trail Head” where there are rest rooms available with other information.

Put some colorful park benches and picnic tables along the bike trail, inviting people to stop and relax more.

Peterson does everything to keep out tourists.

Add more campsites.

Erect signs directing people to bathrooms, food and drink on both ends of trail.

Use the gazebo for music once a month.

Brighten up the streets – flower baskets would be fantastic.

Add some paint and TLC.

I’m grateful for what we do have. Thanks goodness for Judy’s café.

The businesses here need to be open more on weekends when tourists are here.

Promote a better landing on river.

I think the area on both sides of the trail is kept really nice and is very attractive. I think the property owners should follow that example.

Cell phone tower??

Keep the trail usable for cross country skiing/promote cross country skiing

Tree City USA should be brought back.

Often hear comments on how well kept our town is! Hats off to residents and maintenance.

Nothing, let businesses promote.

Present business community already doing a fine job.

Rent snowshoes, skis, bikes, fishing gear

OTHER COMMENTS

Several people commented about the need to clean up individual properties, remove junk, etc. and beautify our community.

Remove unlicensed cars from street.

Several pleasant comments were made about Rick Lee.

A concern was raised about the lack of space for building.

Peterson needs more activities for residents and tourists. Maybe some one-day activities.

Highlight our attributes.

Use social media/websites more creatively.

Give Peterson a brand/ logo – “Step back in time” “Get away to the quiet” etc.

I am thinking Peterson could potentially be as popular as Whalan and Lanesboro, but it needs to OFFER something. A pie shop, a coffee shop, a KWIK Trip with basic essentials for tourists – they leave and go to Rushford for simple needs like bottled water, deodorant, bug spray, sunscreen. They should be able to get those here. Your residents would like it as well. A little convenience store would be fantastic.

Our museum is outstanding for a city our size. Do we need to help it financially?

Make an informational handout for new residents.

Peterson has been a wonderful town to raise my family and am hoping that there will be some businesses or attractions that will draw more families here. I hear of many who speak very highly of Judy’s Café – family oriented and affordable. With the bike trail, camping, area, etc. there should be other businesses that could be a draw – look at Lanesboro – quite a turn around there.

Cut low hanging branches, trim hedges, and clean up junk and old decorations.

Establish an improvement fund.

Help business community make downtown more attractive.

This is a vacation home – love the area – no new ideas.

Is it possible to raise the dike to avoid flood insurance?