

## La Crescent Community Survey #2

### Land Use and Community Design; Transportation; Public Infrastructure and Services; and Natural Systems, Open Space and Recreation

#### Preliminary Takeaways

- Respondents' most common "very important" issues when it comes to land use and regulations are protecting public health and the environment (71%) and preserving the beauty of our natural surroundings (65%).
- The most strongly supported locations for new housing in La Crescent are the Elementary School site (57%) and the downtown area (56%). 44% of respondents oppose or strongly oppose new housing on bluff tops or faces west or south of the City and 33% are unsure.
- The most strongly supported changes if the land currently used for commercial and industrial along highway 14/61 were to change use over time is to convert it to more open space and passive recreation along waterways (73%) or more retail and service businesses (62%).
- Respondents feel that City leaders should be more restrictive when it comes to property upkeep/cleanliness (48%) and billboards (38%).
- 42% strongly agree and 33% agree that La Crescent should become a leader in green practices and ecological stewardship.
- Common responses when asked if there are specific sites or areas in the City that respondents would like to see changed or improved through redevelopment include more/improved opportunities for outdoor recreation; improved waterfronts; housing or other new development on the school site if it is sold; making the downtown more vibrant and attractive to tourists; and adding more businesses.
- 84% of respondents drive a personal vehicle 4-7 days per week. 94 % rarely or never use public transit.
- 21% of respondents rate local streets as "poor".
- 49% of respondents said more/better bike lanes or paths would make them more likely to ride a bike in La Crescent. 46% said more/better sidewalks would make them more likely to walk.
- A majority of respondents would still not use public transit even if the following changes were made: employer subsidy of fare cost, employer shuttle from bus stop, lower total trip time, more convenient bus stop locations and more convenient pickup times.
- 58% of respondents chose "maintenance of existing roads" as a high priority for transportation investments over the next 10 years.
- The most desired bike and pedestrian safety improvement is "crosswalks near the elementary school".
- Additional safety improvements that respondents feel are needed to improve safety or convenience for drivers, bikers or pedestrians include promoting awareness of bikers & pedestrians and etiquette on sharing the road; adding sidewalk on Oak Street near schools to improve safety; adding bike and pedestrian facilities on Highway 6, and improving bike lane, crosswalk, bike/ped awareness on Elm Street.
- 51% of respondents rated the aquatic center as an excellent service offered in La Crescent.
- 60% of respondents said La Crescent should spend more money on public schools.
- 55% of respondents said that the City should make no changes and should continue to use the current City Government Building as long as possible. 28% think a new City Government facility should be built for Police, City Hall and the Public Library.
- 77% of respondents agree or strongly agree that park and outdoor recreational facilities around La Crescent currently meet their needs. Only 14.5% disagree.
- The most widely used outdoor recreation facilities in the past year (with 10+ visits per respondent) include the Mississippi River, Old Hickory Park and Kistler Memorial Park.
- The most common recreational activities respondents participate in include recreational walking (70%), swimming (64%), trail hiking (58%) and playground play (56%).
- The top recreation amenities respondents would like to see expanded or improved in La Crescent include walking trails (45%), bike trails (33%) and kayak/canoe launch.
- Only 10% or less of respondents oppose or strongly oppose various options to protect and/or expand access to the bluffs around La Crescent.