

City of Long Prairie – Comprehensive Plan  
DRAFT Plan for Public Review

February 2025

DRAFT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Long Prairie acknowledges the dedication and volunteerism of its residents in updating this plan. This plan update represents the dedication of many community members who have invested their time, thought, and energy toward Long Prairie's future success. This plan was directly developed by the following Planning Committee members, elected leaders, and city staff with support from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's funding through their Community Energy & Environment Planning for Vulnerable Rural Communities within Region Five.

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## Vision Statement

Long Prairie will be a community where all residents feel welcome and have access to an excellent quality of life; where residents feel at home and are invited to participate in educational opportunities, professional growth, and fellowship.

## Introduction

The City of Long Prairie wanted to be intentional about creating a comprehensive plan with an energy and environment focus, in partnership with funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to make the city even more prosperous. Through community engagement, surveys, and outreach, the plan represents a shared vision for the future and a strategic map to reach that vision.

The plan provides recommendations to guide and manage growth and development. These board recommendations are goals and strategies that express the city's future aspirations. Efforts to implement the plan's vision, goals, and strategy began at adoption.

This living document should guide city officials and staff in their daily activities. It should be easily accessible to elected and appointed officials, board members, city staff, Long Prairie residents, and visitors. Comprehensive Plans are intended to provide direction for a 10- to 15-year time horizon; however, plans are most effective when reviewed annually and updated every five years.

## How to Use This Plan

Long Prairie's Comprehensive Plan Update is divided into the following broad sections:

- Built – Broadband, Transportation, Community Facilities, Housing, Brownfield Development
- Social – Community Services (Access to childcare & safety)
- Individual – Food Security
- Cultural – Welcoming Communities, Opportunities for Innovation
- Political – Zoning
- Environment – Energy Efficiency, Stormwater Management, Soil, Waste, and Parks & Recreation

Each section provides background information and goals developed based on community input. These goals are intended for a wide range of audiences and end users including the City Council elected decision-makers, business owners, developers, permanent residents, season residents, tourists, and prospective residents. We have tried to streamline this document as much as possible for the casual reader while providing enough specific information for the City Council. To further describe the multi-faceted nature of this plan, the following list describes each of the users and how they might use this plan:

1. GUIDE FOR CITY AND STAFF IN:
  - a. Communicating the city's vision for the future.
  - b. Establishing regulatory changes and permitting.
  - c. Acquiring and use of land.
  - d. Planning for capital improvement.
  - e. Development and infrastructure decisions.
2. GUIDE BUSINESSES, PROPERTY OWNERS, AND RESIDENTS IN:
  - a. Determining potential property use.
  - b. Understanding possible land use changes in the surrounding areas.
  - c. Establishing reasonable land use expectations.
  - d. Understanding future infrastructure improvements.
  - e. Improving and investing in property.
3. GUIDE DEVELOPERS WITH PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND THE COORDINATION OF PLANS WITH CITY GOALS, REGULATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS.
4. ASSIST AND COORDINATE WITH NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS WITH ISSUES AND TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

## Authority to Plan

The State of Minnesota gives its communities the legal authority to adopt a Plan according to the Municipal Planning Act (Minnesota State Statute Sections 462.351 to 462.364). The Municipal Planning Act creates a single, uniform procedure that applies to all cities. The Comprehensive Plan provides the legal framework to enact land use control and other municipal actions to implement long-term growth and development regulation strategies. Following the adoption of this plan, the city's land use (zoning) ordinances and official zoning map should be updated to conform to the Comprehensive Plan.

## Planning Process

In May of 2023, the City of Long Prairie contacted Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) requesting a proposal for professional technical assistance to help guide the planning process and facilitate meetings to update the city's Comprehensive Plan. The proposal was presented and approved by the City Council in October of 2023.

During the end of 2023, the R5DC Team worked with city staff to develop a local planning team tasked with guiding the planning process, attending the regular planning meetings, and providing key insights and expertise. The Team ensured that a process was implemented to gather community input and develop goals and strategies based on that input.

### Public Informational Kickoff Meeting – January 24, 2024

A public informational kickoff meeting was held at Long Prairie-Grey Secondary School on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. It included a presentation from R5DC staff regarding comprehensive planning, its purpose, and how it can benefit communities. The meeting also included an asset mapping exercise and a call to action to join the local planning team.

### Local Planning Team

Following the public informational kickoff meeting, R5DC and the City of Long Prairie staff members requested volunteers to participate on the local planning team. Some members responded via this call to action, and others responded based on what they heard at the public informational kickoff meeting in January. Once the local planning team was established, this group began meeting bi-monthly according to the timeline laid out by R5DC staff.

### Dedicated Comprehensive Plan Update Webpage

With an emphasis on public and community engagement, the local planning team (LPT) directed staff to develop a webpage that would be easily accessible and dedicated to the comprehensive plan update. Here, residents unable to attend the local planning team meetings could stay informed of the planning process and would have access to all the meeting agendas, handouts, and summaries of the meetings, surveys, and outcomes. You can access this webpage at

[www.regionfive.org/long-prairie](http://www.regionfive.org/long-prairie).

## Community Survey

One of the Local Planning Team's (LPT) first orders of business was to review the community survey and asset mapping exercise from the kickoff meeting. The LPT and R5DC staff carefully reviewed the 186 individual responses to the 21-question survey that provided valuable community input for the planning team.

## Discussion of Issues and Barriers

After many community discussions, at the kickoff and subsequent LPT meetings, and after being equipped with the community survey responses, the LPT focused on identifying community issues and barriers. R5DC facilitated a few LPT meetings dedicated solely to the topic of identifying issues. The LPT spent a considerable amount of time assessing the issues and barriers to appropriately identify solutions to the challenges that they identified throughout the planning process.

## Development of Goals and Strategies

After collecting as much information as possible through the public informational kickoff meeting, the development of a dedicated comprehensive plan webpage, the development of a local planning team, and the administration of a community survey, the LPT began to apply this information productively by developing goals and strategies to address the identified issues and barriers.

The LPT held a series of meetings aimed at identifying goals and strategies. The first meeting involved brainstorming to generate a wide range of ideas, resulting in a large list of goals. The second meeting focused on evaluating these projects for feasibility and actionability, leading to a shorter more practical list. Additionally, projects were categorized into topic areas like Built and Social. The next meetings prioritized the shortened list of actionable goals within each topic area. Through this process, the LPT developed a categorized, prioritized, and actionable plan aligned with earlier community engagement, ready to be presented to the community and City of Long Prairie.

# Community Character

## Overview

The city of Long Prairie was established along the banks of the Long Prairie River. It is known for its charming and diverse community filled with hard-working people, agricultural base and thriving small businesses. Long Prairie has large industries such as CentraCare medical and wellness. Located with access to U.S. Highway 71, State Highway 27 and State Highway 287, Long Prairie is an ideal location for residents and businesses.

Long Prairie has a population of 3,707 people. [1]

This plan seeks to use the best and most current information available. The most widely used sources in this plan include the US Census Bureau, the Minnesota State Demographers office and a variety of other local sources. The types of information gathered included general demographic information for purpose of community planning including but not limited to: General Population (current and past), age, race, ethnicity, income levels, education attainment, transportation volume, transportation costs, transportation counts among others.

It was the desired effort of the LPT to not discard past planning efforts but rather to build past planning efforts and continue where those efforts left off. Therefore, staff and the LPT emphasized the review and use of the previous comprehensive plan - 2016 to the extent possible and where it made sense. For example, a review of the past goals was conducted to determine which goals had either been accomplished, remained relevant and should be included in this update, or were determined to no longer be relevant goals.

This document is a continuation of the ongoing planning process in the city of Long Prairie. The city has used this planning process as an opportunity to evaluate and reinforce the existing growth and development policies and to evaluate previous planning efforts to update and reinforce past decisions that are still valid. A major premise of this Plan, therefore, is to utilize portions of the previous comprehensive plan whenever applicable.

# History

## Origins and Founding

Long Prairie, located in what is now Todd County, Minnesota, has a rich and multifaceted history. Initially, the region was a battleground between the Sioux and Chippewa tribes. In 1864, the US government established the Winnebago Reservation here, relocating approximately 700 Winnebago people and constructing 150 buildings. However, by 1855, the Winnebago were moved again, marking the end of their presence in the area.

The city of Long Prairie was platted in 1867 and named after the Long Prairie River, which flows east through the county. The river’s name is derived from the Ojibwe term “Go- shagoshkodeia-zibi”, meaning “Long-narrow-Prairie River”. The community was officially incorporated as a village on December 22, 1883.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Long Prairie experienced significant growth. The construction of the Todd County Courthouse in 1883, symbolized the town’s development. The courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Today, Long Prairie serves as the county seat and continues to honor its historical roots while embracing growth and diversity. [City of Long Prairie, MN](#) [2]

### Population

This table shows the population changes that have occurred from 2016 to the 2023 census for the city of Long Prairie, surrounding townships, Todd County, and the State of Minnesota. [3]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
City of Long Prairie	3,330	3,327	3,320	3,307	3,652	3,697	3,699	3,707
Long Prairie Township	840	844	850	854	884	886	899	905
City of Browerville	748	749	750	746	839	832	831	831
Bruce Township	575	578	583	581	482	477	477	477
Reynolds Township	654	659	660	666	735	738	752	756
Todd County	24,408	24,539	24,613	24,725	24,723	25,237	25,533	25,667
State of Minnesota	5,484,002	5,525,360	5,569,283	5,608,762	5,640,053	5,706,494	5,717,968	5,738,300

# Built – Broadband, Transportation, Community Facilities, Housing, Brownfield Development

## Broadband

### Overview

Broadband connectivity is a critical component of modern infrastructure, essential for economic growth, education, healthcare, and quality of life in Long Prairie. The city has made strides in expanding internet access, but challenges remain in achieving equitable, reliable, and high-speed coverage for all residents and businesses.

Current broadband structures include fiber-optic, cable, and wireless technologies, with varying levels of availability and speed depending on location. The LPT discussed these issues.

### Goals & Strategies

1. Advocate and identify the need for low-cost, high-speed internet.

#### This looks like:

- a. Partner and encourage companies to update broadband in the city.
  - b. Partner with local townships, counties, cities, and businesses for a unified voice to advocate for better broadband for Long Prairie and the surrounding areas.
  - c. Continued development and maintenance of broadband in the city limits and increase the availability of broadband in extended areas of Long Prairie.
2. Consider alternative methods for community members to receive high speed internet services within the community.

#### This looks like:

- a. Consider the development of co-working spaces within the city.

## Transportation

### Overview

Transportation has always been an important part of Long Prairie. One of the area's primary transportation features is U.S. Highway 71, State Highway 27 and State Highway 287 within the city. These highways provide excellent visibility for visitors passing through and offer convenient access to downtown and the residential area.

## Input & Data

As in most cities, the network of roads is a partnership between several jurisdictions, including the State of Minnesota, Todd County and the City of Long Prairie. When discussing highways and roads, functional classification is the grouping of streets and highways into classes or systems according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Basic to this process is the recognition that most travel involves movement through a network of roads. Functional classification defines the role that any road or street plays in serving the flow of trips through an entire network.

## Federal, State and Local Programs, Plans and Planning

The Statewide Multimodal Transportation [Plan](#) is Minnesota's highest-level policy plan for transportation. It is a 20-year plan based on Minnesota GO, a vision of a transportation system that maximizes the health of people, the environment, and our economy. The plan is for all types of transportation and all transportation partners. It covers more than just roadways and applies to more than just the Minnesota Department of Transportation. It evaluates the status of the transportation system, what is changing, and how we will move forward over the next twenty years. *The Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan was updated as of January 2017.* You can read the plan at <https://minnesotago.org/final-plans/smtp-final-plan-2017>

## 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP)

The 10-year Capital Highway Investment [Plan](#) details MnDOT's capital highway investments for the next ten years on the state highway network. The CHIP is updated yearly to remove projects that are being constructed, adjust the timing of existing planned projects, and add new planned projects. The primary purpose of the document is to communicate programmed and planned capital highway projects over the next 10 years. The document serves as a check to ensure that MnDOT is meeting the investment levels and performance outcomes identified in MnDOT's 20-year State Highway Investment Plan, MnSHIP, and explains any change in direction or outcomes from the investment direction. [4]

## 4-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The STIP is a federally required public document that lists Minnesota's four-year transportation improvement program. The STIP includes all state and local transportation projects that are using federal highway and/or federal transit funding along with those state transportation projects which are using 100% state funds. Information contained within the STIP includes the cost, schedule, and funding sources for the identified projects. The STIP is developed on an annual basis, and it is

updated throughout the year to reflect significant changes in the program. In addition to federal highway and transit projects, the STIP includes rail and port projects for informational purposes. [5]

As part of the public input process, the following theme was identified around the topic of housing in the community survey:

- Public transportation options are not available when desired
- Sidewalks are not connected

## Goals and Strategies

1. Identify and enhance alternative transportation methods, increasing their availability to the community.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Build partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies to extend transportation services' hours of operation.
  - b. Explore grant opportunities to purchase ADA-compliant vehicles to ensure accessibility for all residents.
  - c. Encourage private companies to invest in ADA-compliant vehicles and offer extended hours to improve service availability.
2. Enhance pedestrian crossings and infrastructure to promote safety and walkability throughout the city.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Identify areas for additional pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and crosswalks.
  - b. Invest in expanding and improving bicycle lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, and multi-use trails to encourage active transportation.
  - c. Improve existing crosswalks by repainting lines for both pedestrian and bicycle crossings, enhancing visibility and safety.
3. Consider the development of a Complete Streets Policy that integrates all transportation modes, streetscaping, aesthetics, and parking.

**This looks like:**

- a. Explore innovative design concepts and signage that support mobility while reducing congestion.
  - b. Engage in regional, county, and city-wide discussions regarding transit planning, including the Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils to ensure alignment with broader Transportation goals.
4. Consider updating the “Safe Routes to School” plan to improve safety and connectivity for students.

**This looks like:**

- a. Seek funding from MnDOT and other grant sources to update and implement the plan.
- b. Ensure sidewalks are connected to key locations, such as the high school, to enhance student safety and mobility.
- c. Incorporate the Complete Streets concept in the downtown area to improve safety and accessibility for students and residents alike.

## Community Facilities

### Overview

Community facilities are vital assets that contribute to the quality of life, health, and well-being of Long Prairie residents. These facilities include parks, recreational centers, libraries, public safety buildings, and other public infrastructure that support the city’s cultural, social, and civic needs.

### Goals & Strategies

1. Explore funding options and feasibility for building a community center to serve the needs of the city and residents.
  - a. Research potential funding sources, including grants, public-private partnerships, and local fundraising initiatives.
  - b. Conduct a community needs assessment to determine the services and features that should be included in the community center (e.g. meeting spaces, recreational areas, childcare facilities, etc.).
  - c. Engage with local stakeholders and government officials to build support to ensure the project aligns with the city’s long-term vision.
  - d. Develop a phased plan for construction, including timelines and estimated costs.

# Housing

## Overview

Over time, the city has experienced a slight increase in population. Housing accessibility, quality, affordability, and availability enhances the community's sense of place and strengthens the quality of life for all residents, whether they own or rent. Housing could be the single most important element in a city. Businesses look at the variety of supply of the housing stock in the community when considering relocating, expanding, or starting up.

Housing is not a one-type solution. Housing needs change throughout life stages and with demographic needs.

Given this demand for housing, affordability also became a central focus of the LPT's housing discussion.

## Input & Data

The housing landscape of a city and its needs can be determined by the population living in a community and the current availability of housing. Long Prairie's current housing landscape and data include:

- A median age of people in Long Prairie of 39.9 years, compared to 39.1 for the State of Minnesota. [6]
- A median value of owner-occupied units of \$146,429. [6]
- A majority of residents in Long Prairie are owner-occupied with 62.2% of the city owning their homes. [6]

As part of the public input process, the following theme was identified around the topic of housing in the community survey:

- **More housing:** The desire to reduce blighted properties and increase housing availability while exploring different housing options. The LPT identified the housing needs based off current and potential growth for the city. Housing opportunities identified were single-family market-rate housing, workforce/workforce & middle-income housing / low-income housing/apartments, and townhome options.

## Goals and Strategies

1. Determine the current availability and demand for various types of housing within the city.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Conduct comprehensive housing survey and study to assess current housing availability demand, and gaps.
  - b. Develop a task force comprised of city officials, housing experts, and community members to analyze the study results and create a strategic path forward for addressing housing needs.
2. Support the development of housing and neighborhoods that meet the diverse needs of all the residents, ensuring comfortable living for everyone.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Encourage the development of a range of sustainable, high-quality, and affordable housing to accommodate the needs of both current and future residents.
  - b. Promote energy-efficient housing solutions for all demographics, including education on weatherization, adoption of the Minnesota housing standards, and retrofitting programs.
  - c. Support initiatives to rehabilitate substandard housing and improve living conditions for residents.
3. Foster the development of mixed-use housing in downtown areas to support vibrant, integrated neighborhoods.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Explore zoning changes to allow for mixed-use residential development in commercial districts, enhancing accessibility.
4. Consider the development of programs to assist residents with housing challenges.

### **This looks like:**

- a. Explore options for creating financial assistance, rental support, or homeownership programs to assist low- and moderate-income residents.
- b. Investigate partnerships with non-profits, local businesses, and other entities to offer housing-related services.

5. Seek funding through a Capacity Grant to evaluate the city's housing needs in detail.

**This looks like:**

**If awarded, form a steering committee to assist in evaluating and identifying the city's exact housing needs.**

- a. Use the findings for the grant to create a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses short- and long-term needs.

## **Brownfield Development**

### **Overview**

Brownfield sites – previously developed properties that may be contaminated or underutilized – present both challenges and opportunities for Long Prairie. These properties, often located in former industrial or commercial areas, can detract from community aesthetics and pose environmental risks but also offer significant potential for revitalization and economic growth.

### **Goals and Strategies**

1. Consider developing a downtown revitalization plan to renew Long Prairie's look and feel and make it a more vibrant and welcoming place.
  - a. Explore the availability of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Grant to fund a city-wide assessment that evaluates current conditions and potential for redevelopment.
  - b. Identify key sites within the downtown area that could benefit from revitalization and redevelopment.
  - c. Engage with local stakeholders, including residents, business owners, and city planners, to discuss redevelopment options and priorities for the downtown area.

## Social – Community Services (Access to Childcare & Safety)

### Community Services

#### Overview

Services such as public safety (police, fire, and emergency medical services), healthcare, education, childcare, social services, and other essential programs that enhance residents' quality of life are pivotal in meeting the needs of Long Prairie residents. Long Prairie has many of these services available, and strengthening them is critical to ensuring that the city remains resilient, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of its diverse population.

#### Input & Data

As part of the public input process, the following theme was identified around the topic of Social – Community Services in the community survey:

- Childcare with extended hours is crucial

#### Goals and Strategies

1. Create strategic initiatives and coordinated efforts that support year-round job creation and sustainable economic growth.

##### **This looks like:**

- a. Foster partnerships with local businesses and organizations to expand childcare availability, including extending days of operation and hours.
  - b. Advocate for the creation of additional spaces and resources to support childcare providers and ensure they can meet the workforce's needs.
2. Develop multi-use community infrastructure to address childcare needs.

##### **This looks like:**

- a. Secure funding and support to develop innovative infrastructure, including a pod-based childcare system.
- b. Leverage grants and funding opportunities for this system.
- c. Consider the research of nearby county models for replication.

3. Establish a committee for city beautification and amenity enhancement.

**This looks like:**

- a. Create a dedicated committee to enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of Long Prairie through beautification projects.
- b. Encourage the committee to organize fundraising events and seek grant opportunities that engage the community in achieving the projects.

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# Individual – Food Security

## Overview

Food security is a critical issue that impacts residents' health and well-being. Like many small cities, Long Prairie experiences both strengths and challenges regarding food security. The city benefits from access to fresh produce, local farms, and a community-centered culture. However, economic disparities and limited access to food distribution centers present some obstacles for some residents.

## Food Security

### Goals and Strategies

1. Explore opportunities to expand access to food resources by expanding food shelf hours and increasing community access.

**This looks like:**

- a. Partner with law enforcement to ensure safety during evening food shelf hours.
  - b. Evaluate the feasibility of adding Blessing Boxes at strategic locations around the community to provide additional support.
2. Consider expanding and modernizing the food shelf process to improve accessibility and community engagement.

**This looks like:**

- a. Explore the implementation of a “Grocery Store” style layout at the food shelf to provide a more flexible and dignified shopping experience.
- b. Educate the community on the benefits of this style of food distribution to increase awareness and participation.

# CULTURAL – Welcoming Communities, Opportunities for Innovation

## Overview

Long Prairie is a vibrant city with a diverse population that includes people from various cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. This diversity enriches the city's identity and requires intentional efforts to ensure that every resident feels welcomed and included.

As part of the public input process, the following theme was identified around the topic of cultural assets in the community survey:

- It is difficult to engage all people from different backgrounds. As the city evolves, it must prioritize building an environment where all residents feel valued, celebrated, and empowered to contribute to innovation within the city.

## Welcoming Communities

### Goals and Strategies

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive community communication and relationship-building platform that fosters inclusivity and strengthens connections among all community members.

#### This looks like:

- a. Identify and implement strategies to engage and include diverse cultural groups within the community.
  - b. Promote openness and vulnerability to create trust and understanding among residents.
  - c. Offer programs and resources to teach and support relationship-building skills across the community.
2. Encourage the Long Prairie Welcome Center to achieve its non-profit status.
  3. Enhance community inclusivity by providing key information and resources in Spanish to ensure accessibility for all residents.

#### This looks like:

- a. Encourage the translation of important city communications and resources into Spanish at the Welcome Center and other public service locations to better serve and engage the Spanish – speaking population.

## Opportunities for Innovation

### Goals and Strategies

1. Consider the implementation of an educational program for community members.

#### **This looks like:**

- a. Create and distribute a welcome packet to new residents featuring essential information about city services, local organizations, and community opportunities.
- b. Provide a detailed guide covering practical topics, such as garbage disposal, parking regulations, utility setup, and public transportation options.
- c. Host regular orientation events to introduce new residents to the community, explain available resources, and answer questions in an inclusive setting.

## POLITICAL – Zoning

### Zoning

#### Goals and Strategies

1. Suggest the city Planning and Zoning Board update regulations for shoreline and river property owners.

#### **This looks like:**

- a. Conduct a thorough review of current Planning and Zoning (P&Z) regulations concerning shoreline and river property owners to ensure alignment with environmental best practices.
- b. Develop informational materials for property owners to understand their responsibilities, including guidelines for erosion control, waste management, and habitat preservation.
- c. Establish regular inspections to comply with updated regulations and enforce penalties for violations.
- d. Partner with environmental organizations to provide resources, workshops, and incentives for property owners to adopt eco-friendly practices.

# ENVIRONMENTAL – Energy Efficiency, Stormwater Management, Soil, Waste, and Parks & Recreation

## Overview

Cities throughout the nation, big and small, conduct comprehensive planning to steer community development. This process is essential in guiding municipalities. Today, energy resilience, climate adaptation, and environmental health are becoming key considerations in city planning.

This section is intended to support the city of Long Prairie in identifying energy resilience and environmental conditions, challenges, and concerns, while also charting a plan of action to address the concerns. Withing the community survey a few big topics were addressed:

- Air quality
- Odor control
- Pursue opportunities to improve energy efficiencies on city owned property
- Stronger regulations within city limits for climate resilience
- Improvements to public spaces that ensure proper water management

The LPT focused several discussions on energy and environment planning for the city based off the survey results as well as conversations within the group. The LPT developed specific goals with the first goals being of high priority for the city to consider doing within the next 1-5 years.

The LPT identified 10 potential projects based on community input, discussions, and resources. These goals are listed below in order of importance. The City of Long Prairie and partners will work to implement the outlined projects at little to no cost to the city. Costs associated with identified projects aim to be covered by grants and partnerships from local, state and federal agencies.

## Goals and Strategies

1. Form a “Beautification Committee”
  - a. Recruit volunteers to lead community beautification projects.
  - b. Organize regular meetings to plan and implement landscaping, public art, and other improvement initiatives.
  - c. Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to secure sponsorships and resources.
  - d. Plant trees, flowers, and other greenery throughout town.

This priority project outlined is aimed at improving air quality throughout the city which is essential for public health and environmental sustainability. By reducing pollutants, communities can lower the risk of respiratory illness, cardiovascular diseases, and other health concerns. The LPT identified this goal due to the many benefits, which include air purification, temperature regulation, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, aesthetic benefits, and mental health well-being.

2. Encourage energy efficiency projects throughout the city.
  - a. Promote the transition to LED lighting in residential and commercial properties.
  - b. Partner with utility companies to provide rebates or discounts for energy-efficient upgrades.
  - c. Conduct workshops and awareness campaigns on the benefits of energy efficiency.
3. Complete improvements to Riverside Park
  - a. Develop a comprehensive plan for utilizing grant funds to update or add culverts, roads, the pond, and parking facilities.
  - b. Engage the community to gather input on desired park improvements.
  - c. Ensure the improvements align with environmental best practices to preserve the park's natural beauty.
  - d. Consider the implementation of a splash park.
4. Encourage sustainable development
  - a. Protect sensitive areas such as lakeshores, wetlands, and floodplains through updated zoning and planning regulations.
  - b. Reconsider adopting the GreenSteps Cities program to guide sustainable city planning.
    - i. [Welcome to GreenStep Cities | GreenStep Cities \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/greenstep)
  - c. Partner with developers to promote eco-friendly construction practices.
5. Consider placement for Solar panels around the community
  - a. Identify grant opportunities to install solar panels on city-owned properties.
  - b. Collaboration with power companies to provide incentives for residential solar panel installations.
  - c. Create educational resources for residents and businesses on the benefits of solar energy.
6. Maintain the upkeep of industrial ponds.
  - a. Develop a regular maintenance schedule to reduce odors and improve functionality
  - b. Partner with environmental consultants to identify long-term solutions for industrial pond management.

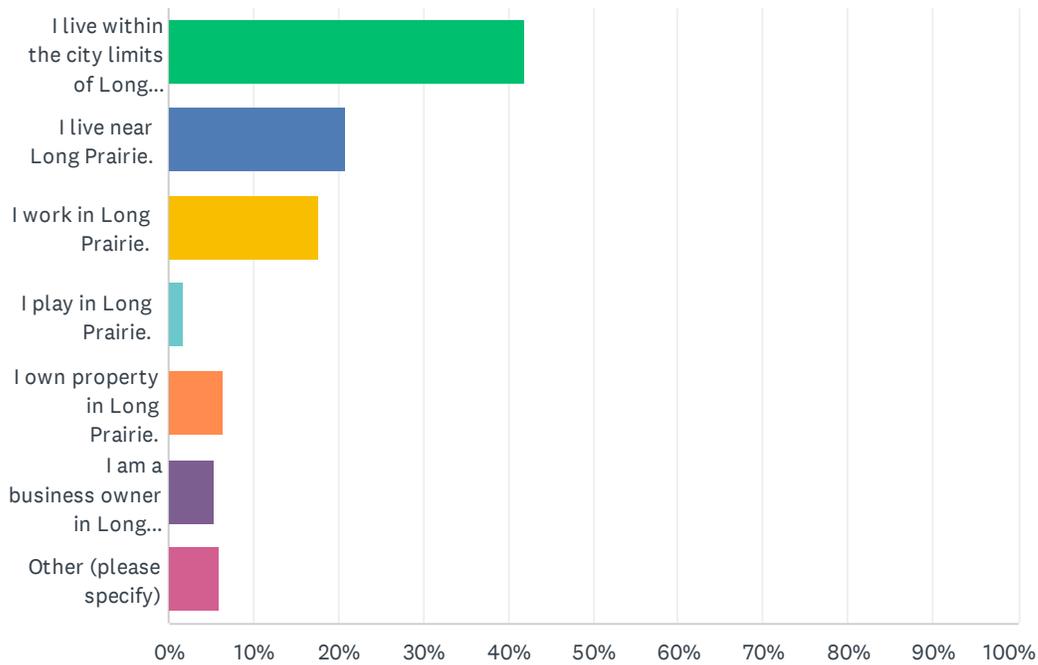
7. Enhance water management practices
  - a. Regularly clean and maintain city ponds to ensure water quality and reduce pollutants.
  - b. Conduct public education campaigns on protecting local waterways,
  - c. Collaborate with state and federal agencies to secure funding for water management projects.
8. Offer annual community-wide clean-up days.
  - a. Organize clean-up events, including the disposal of hazardous waste, to increase proper waste management.
  - b. Provide opportunities for residents to beautify Main Street through landscaping and public art initiatives.
  - c. Highlight the environmental and community benefits of participating in clean-up efforts.
9. Promote tourism and recreational activities at Lake Charlotte
  - a. Increase awareness of the lake's amenities through marketing campaigns and community events.
10. Explore the potential for new recreational activities, such as kayaking, fishing events, or guided nature walks.
11. Update Park amenities
  - a. Conduct a needs assessment to identify outdated or underutilized facilities.
  - b. Secure funding for new playgrounds, picnic areas, and walking trails.
  - c. Ensure accessibility for all residents, including those with disabilities.
12. Form a "Beautification Committee"
  - a. Recruit volunteers to lead community beautification projects.
  - b. Organize regular meetings to plan and implement landscaping, public art, and other improvement initiatives.
  - c. Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to secure sponsorships and resources.
  - d. Plant trees, flowers, and other greenery

## References

- [1] US Census Bureau, "Total Population, Ideal Township, Minnesota," Washington, DC.
- [2] "City of Long Prairie," [Online]. Available: <https://www.longprairie.net/>.
- [3] U. C. Bureau, "United States Census Bureau," [Online]. Available: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>.. [Accessed 2024].
- [4] MNDOT, "Minnesota Department of Transportation," [Online]. Available: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/>.
- [5] M. D. o. Transportation, December 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/program/stip.html>.
- [6] U. C. Bureau, "Long Prairie, Minnesota," [Online]. Available: [https://data.census.gov/profile/long\\_prairie\\_city,\\_Minnesota?g=160XX00US2710252#populations-and-people](https://data.census.gov/profile/long_prairie_city,_Minnesota?g=160XX00US2710252#populations-and-people). [Accessed 2024].

## Q1 Please select the following that best describes you.

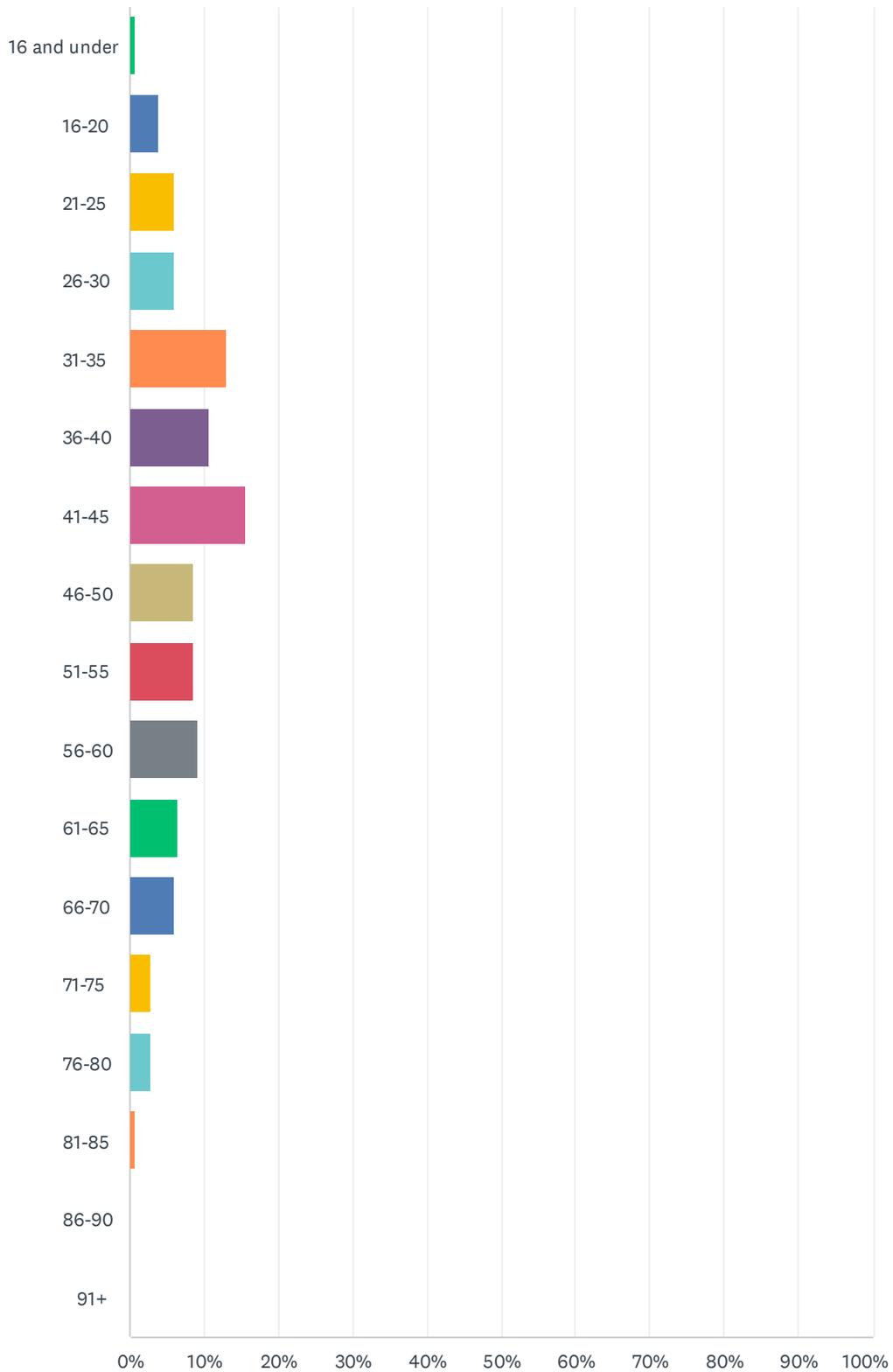
Answered: 186 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live within the city limits of Long Prairie.	41.94%	78
I live near Long Prairie.	20.97%	39
I work in Long Prairie.	17.74%	33
I play in Long Prairie.	1.61%	3
I own property in Long Prairie.	6.45%	12
I am a business owner in Long Prairie.	5.38%	10
Other (please specify)	5.91%	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>186</b>

## Q2 Please select your age range.

Answered: 186 Skipped: 0

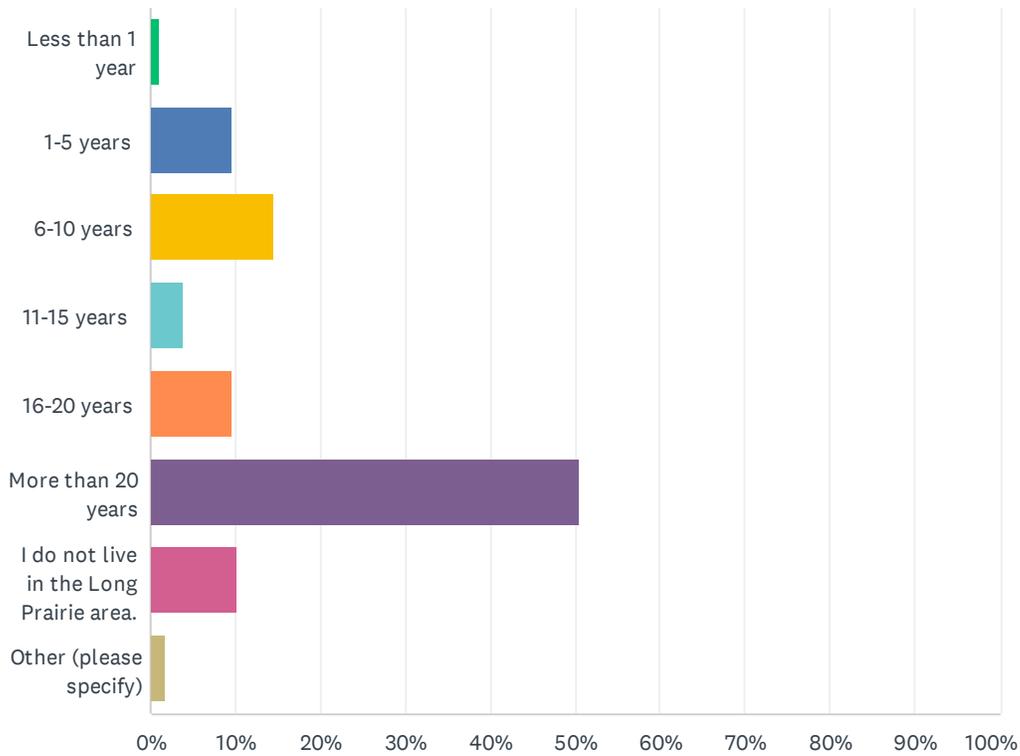


## Long Prairie Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
16 and under	0.54%	1
16-20	3.76%	7
21-25	5.91%	11
26-30	5.91%	11
31-35	12.90%	24
36-40	10.75%	20
41-45	15.59%	29
46-50	8.60%	16
51-55	8.60%	16
56-60	9.14%	17
61-65	6.45%	12
66-70	5.91%	11
71-75	2.69%	5
76-80	2.69%	5
81-85	0.54%	1
86-90	0.00%	0
91+	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 186		

### Q3 How long have you been a resident in the Long Prairie area?

Answered: 186 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	1.08%	2
1-5 years	9.68%	18
6-10 years	14.52%	27
11-15 years	3.76%	7
16-20 years	9.68%	18
More than 20 years	50.54%	94
I do not live in the Long Prairie area.	10.22%	19
Other (please specify)	1.61%	3
Total Respondents: 186		

## Q4 How would you describe Long Prairie?

Answered: 157 Skipped: 29

Q4 Answers:

Kind of a dump town to be honest. Smells are horrible.

Diverse

Falling apart

Run down, poor, declining

A struggling town

Diverse, not many activities for all ages

Home

Decent sized town, has a lot of potential, but needs work

Declining

Falling apart, looks junky when you drive thru

A great community to work in, but not a lot of options for recreation.

Easygoing

Broke small town with limited appeal

Too many illegals

The white population is outnumbered and being discriminated against. Job hiring is based on race, not the best qualified candidate. Long Prairie is promoting/forcing long time residents to move away.

Boring town with little to offer kids, teens. Not much for growth to keep young people living here. A school that's going to crap, with poor education.

Changing and home!!

Needs to be cleaned up and hold people accountable, the migrants are taking over and local law enforcement needs to clamp down on the drugs and people with no drivers license.

Small town, nice variety of playgrounds

Changing

Sad once a beautiful town

I love our town, I do feel like we're becoming more distant from our community members as we go to the store, we don't see familiar faces. Downtown is a shame & many yards are left unkept.

Deteriorating quickly

Needs more businesses, more interests and attractions to bring people to town

It smell is unbearable

It smells like sewage

A small town that is struggling to find its niche. We're not a lake town. We have very few opportunities for shopping and dining. We luckily have a very active Chamber of Commerce that tries hard to promote all the positives that we have to offer and bring in new opportunities. I don't feel there is a cohesive plan or structure that gives Long Prairie the small town charm found in other communities though. For those of us who are born and raised here, we feel the loyalty to our home, but something often feels like it's missing.

Diverse, with a small town feel.

Nice little town

A diverse community filled with caring people who are trying to navigate the changes. Once a buzzing hub, local businesses have declined and are now coming back. There is a hesitancy to embrace the "new" until it is necessary to do so.

Long Prairie is a small town, but has the amenities to support the rural community it is in. It has the benefits of being on two major highways and the county seat, but retains its small town atmosphere.

A growing small town environment with diverse cultures that generally respect each other.

Multi Diverse Challenging

Small town, dirty, run down buildings, and at times not safe

Small town with lots of favoritism / politics.

A beautiful town with lots of potential

Variety of ethnic groups – factory work, needs more for kids

Lack of sense of community

Smelly from the packing and rendering plants and honestly really boring.

Dirty, yards look like used car lots. Decrepit, worn out main street. Dirt bikes, 4 wheelers, kids on lawnmowers racing up and down roads. It's embarrassing to have friends and relatives over from other towns and impossible to even talk outside with these dirt bikes racing up and down, over and over. Not to mention they are all going well over the speed limit. Call the police and it takes hours IF they even show up.

Diverse

A moderate sized town with a variety of businesses and industry

It had became down hill a lot

Diverse community aging, not progressive. Mainly for living, not for shopping or entertaining. Unfortunately, not a lot of opportunity to really “live” wholly in the community.

Going down hill

Great place to raise a family. Safe

Small town with lots of diversity. A little slow to embrace and support other cultures.

Changing

No progressive

Not what it used to be going down hill fast

Boring and outdated. Very little interest in the town from majority of residents.

Not a huge town but lots of diversity. Being in school in Long Prairie you meet people of all backgrounds and cultures. It’s a community that likes to come together and support each other.

It used to be a small, quiet town

Hard to become a part of unless you are part of a certain social clique.

A diverse rural town that is very centralized. Mostly farming and industry. It is difficult to get the Hispanic and Caucasian communities to mix.

Struggling small town – has the potential to thrive but lacks the skill, knowledge and proper leadership.

It is a soup pot of community members with lots of valuable and diverse individuals. However, old policies make it difficult for the town to grow and adapt to changes within the community.

I would say that people in the community are nice. I feel that the city only cares about bringing workers in for the factory and not about the community. High taxes and nothing to show for it.

Peaceful, small town, family oriented, safe

Centrally located. A potentially prime rural American town that faces typical challenges brought on by big government, large scale agriculture and un-checked immigration.

Not much of a down town. No bike trails. It has a nice lake and swimming beach. Lots of Churches. Friendly people.

Lacking businesses so a person has to go out of town to shop. Community is not always very supportive.

Declining from the beautiful town it used to be

Small town with a lot of untapped potential

Declining, housing not being taken care of or improved, more crime and noise disturbances, diverse. Small businesses are going away and it’s mostly industry now. The opposite of how the town was in the

80's & 90's. Empty industrial park for decades makes no sense. No growth happening. Aged city council out of touch. It would take a lot to bring it back to how it used to be.

A small town with lots of potential. Caring residents and fairly receptive of newcomers.

I see it as a struggling small town in some areas & seeing growth in other areas.

Very nice small town

A place to get groceries, visit the Dairy Queen, and play tennis. Occasionally get coffee or see a movie at the drive-in theater. Used to be home to (no longer living) elders in my extended family, so I feel tied to it as a place.

A small diverse town with growth potential

Going down hill since we moved here. So many homes are uncared for, cars parked in yards, Racing cars and UTV's all over. The once peaceful town has become something I never imagined

A place that has a lot of divided people. I think this place could be way more of a community including all races. I feel this way based off of misunderstanding's of people. This place is fun with the drive in, a great golf course, fair, and other activities. A very lively town with a lot of people walking around.

Trashy, stinky!

A small town that has become over ran by the packing plant and Dans prize which is bringing in too many immigrants and people who do not care about our community

Depressing. Main street is supposed to be the town attraction but it is a ghost town. Not enough sidewalks where they're absolutely necessary. Everywhere you look is a building that was vacated because rent was not affordable. Not enough activities for the younger children to be apart of outside of school. No where for them to hang out safely and have projects to look forward to that isn't over priced or a 30 minute drive away.

Very frustrating

Small, smelly, run-down

Nice place to live that is diverse that has its pros and cons like any city this size.

Diverse community that is changing but also has a large aging population

It has really changed

Small rural farm town, very Catholic, lots of immigrants, smelly due to the packing plant, but a good community

Emerging

Pleasant small town atmosphere. Long Prairie does need to work more diligently on the, at times, horrendous smell coming from the packing plant, rendering plant, sewage treatment plant, etc. It has gotten better over the years but there is still much room for improvement.

Small town

Diverse, sometimes opinionated, it doesn't appear that people making decisions on behalf of the community and county have the best interests of the people in mind.

Lacking in Community involvement, I notice efforts to improve and see that it may be coming around.

A small diverse community with lots of opportunities

A diverse, but divided community with lots of potential

Not a nuff convenient stores

I believe it is very uniquely diverse. It has potential but has some negative attachments to it such as the odor from one of the employers. That is huge and needs to be resolved. But then I think it could really be an area that could showcase the Latino Diversity but also Mennonite/Amish diversity - with the amount of businesses that our Mennonite and Amish communities have and the number of visitors to our area to use those businesses, maybe more could be done to highlight and market that out to the state.

Wide variety of people, crowded, pretty, lots of little trails and walking path but there could be more. Lack of other activities and places to do things

A little town with little things to do

A nice little town, people are friendly and helpful!

Friendly community, very open to new businesses

A mess- mix of old and new. Terrible smells, lack of responsibility for existing issues

Conflicted, so many cultures attempting to share space without understanding the cultures.

A new world melting pot of races.

Small community with great location near larger cities and a good business base.

Stinky

Unkept unsafe after dark deteriorating

Growing and progressive. Embracing our diversity with great efforts by our Long Prairie Chamber, School, Hospital and WAVE center to name a few. Our location is superb. We are two hours from Fargo

and Twin Cities, one hour from St Cloud & Brainerd and appx 30 minutes from Alexandria, Wadena, Little Falls, Sauk Centre.

Changing and not for the good

People don't want to volunteer to make the town better. Small group of people are anti business and complain about anything that would add jobs or income to the community. They usually don't understand the projects they oppose.

A community that is divided and diverse. Rules not enforced.

It needs help. Mainstreet has nothing left. The packing plant has gotten so many tax breaks and what not. They haven't put nothing back into the community. Mainstreet has virtually no business left. It looks trashed. I am afraid to send my youngest child to the LPGE school district.

Good Environment To Raise your kids

Changing

A very ethnically diverse town that has a great deal of industry. It was an excellent town to raise my children in!

Declining, crime increasing – heard about car thefts, burglaries etc. Drugs are far worse in the area, the long time residents are trying but need new residents to buy in and see value. Join volunteer groups and shop locally. Need a stop light at Coborns and definitely 71/27 corner. Traffic flies through town and many use the cross walks- the semis and vehicular dint slow down, nor get pulled over. The road work 2 years ago (38) into never got completed. Can not pull up to curb and water does not drain so there are huge puddles. Drains are 11/2-2 inches higher than tar. You would think the city would show pride in a job they paid to have done.

Friendly, changing

Divided

A small town with many significant industrial businesses, and a school and it is the county seat of Todd County.

A dying community

A changing small town

Small town

Long Prairie can't decide if it wants to be a small town. While it retains something of an "everyone knows everyone" feel, that's shifting as the town grows. Long Prairie is lively, diverse, and changing

Ok place to raise a family, but lacking activities and family friendly (splash pad, good parks, ECT) to keep people here.

A little run down in need of a face lift and some TLC.

Diverse city that has its pros and cons like any city of its size. Good place to raise a family

Changing rapidly on the culture demographic side of things

Slow to recognize the value of all humans regardless of color – economically disadvantaged – not focused on moving forward – no retail – limited grocery choices – racially unprepared to accept change – full of silos – people do not commit time and energy to community as in smaller towns in our county – one person complaining could stop a freight train full of resources and positive change.

Small town atmosphere with dynamic cultural variations

Rural. Diverse. Passive. Simple. Neutral. Basic

A community with the potential for growth in many areas.

A small town with a lot of improvement.

Honestly cant wait to get out of Ip. There really isn't anything here for you unless you are a foreigner.

Divided but has potential

Lots of opportunities and very diverse. Very welcoming and accommodating

Growing community, safe place to call home, smelly-rendering plant

Best phrase that comes to mind is "in disrepair". Needs massive updating in order to draw in new business and visitors. It no longer feels homey and inviting. Sad, but true.

Long Prairie is a nice community, the town has variety of things to offer. There are many nice people that live in the area.

A small town with a diverse population

Calm and safe compared to Texas

Lacks resources

Decent. Needs more businesses. More grocery stores

Fun

Diverse

Could be a beautiful place if the industry was further away and not smelling up the town, all industry is nestled too close to residential areas. Otherwise a beautiful and historical place.

Used to be a lovely town with much pride in owners property

A small town on the rise to big things. Businesses coming in and a wide diverse group of people. MN nice

Diverse and welcoming

Boring, dirty, smelly

Racist, ignorant Christian right, hypocritical

A small town with diversity

It has gone way down hill and i only am here still cuz of my mom

Newly multicultural

Long Prairie is a town that has lost it's way. It used to be a good community. The officials (mayor & council) have stopped listening to the citizens of the area. It lacks housing for the older population, that would open houses for younger families coming to/staying in town. In order to attract more businesses, it needs to have housing for people that would work there.

Glad I left town when I did, sooooo much going on now in town and it stinks

A town that is losing control

LP was a wonderful town. I felt the community was so much stronger and closer. I realize our society has changed overall the years whether it is good or not but it's different. I see LP as having jobs but there is "NO SHOPPING!" If you want to keep they money here in town, you need to have the stores. Granted, a lot is done on-line today but we still need a place to buy clothes, Christmas, Birthday, wedding gifts etc.

Great community, lacking businesses on central ave. Leaders don't listen to citizens concerns of what's happening in the community with the drugs and other potential crimes with the other nationalities.

A town trying to mesh residents that have lived here forever and new people coming for jobs. A Main Street that needs revitalization.

A small, diverse town

Small community, with a diverse population.

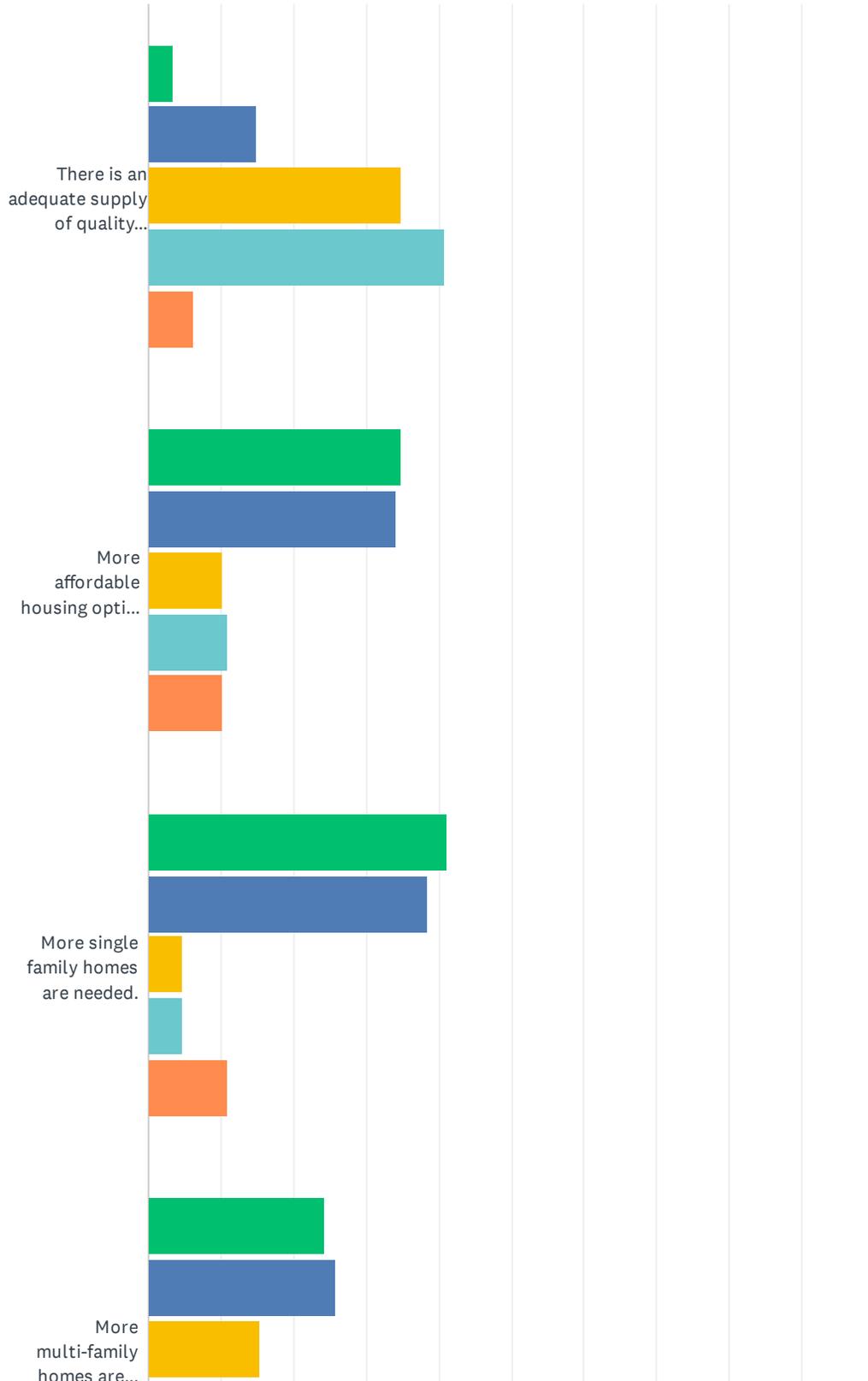
Nice town, but needs to grow

Long Prairie is a beautiful town with conservative people. It also is a city which doesn't follow it's own rules and favors cultural diversity over roots.

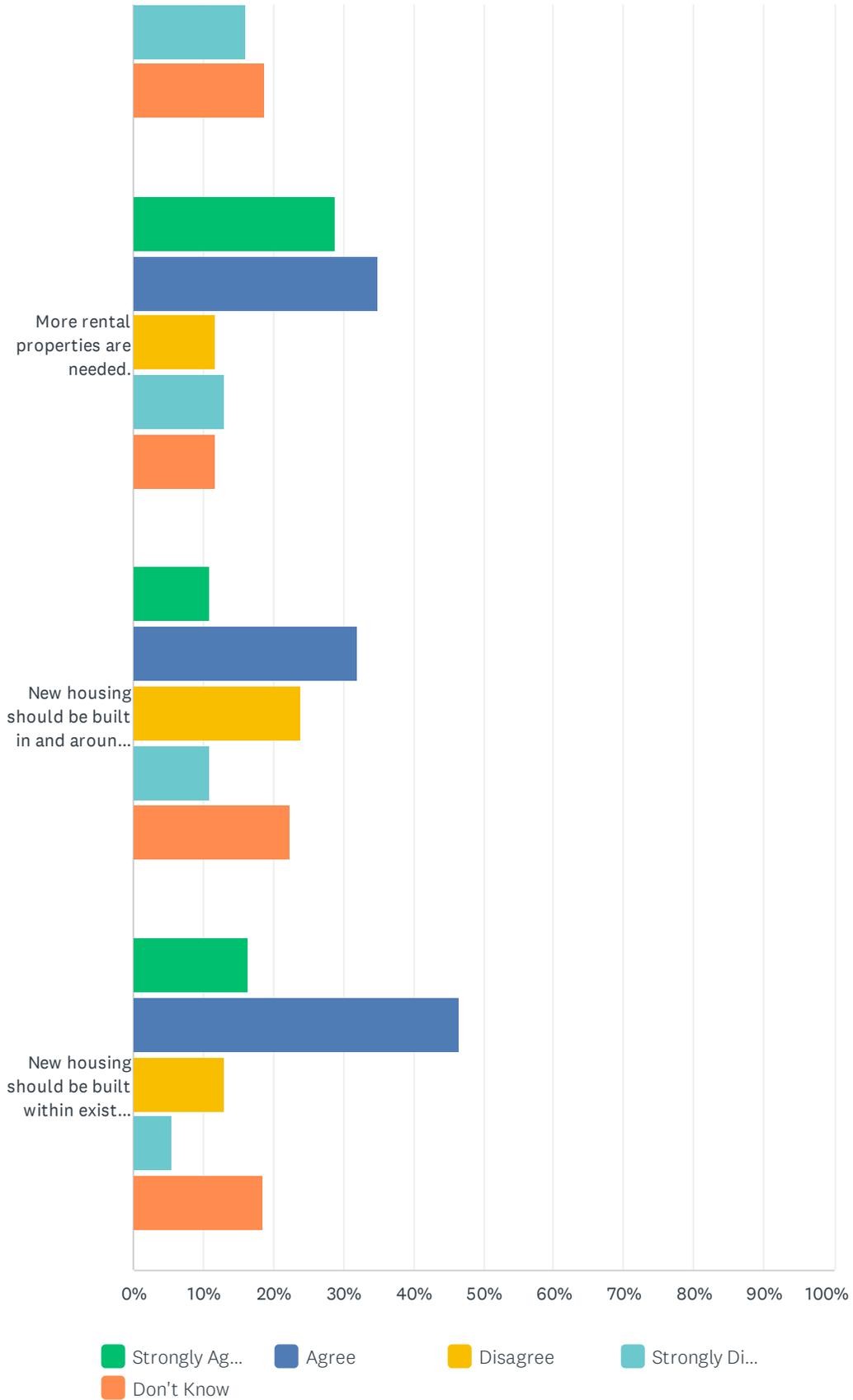
Long Prairie is a small, rural town in Minnesota.

### Q5 Please indicate to what extent you agree with each of the following statements:

Answered: 148 Skipped: 38



# Long Prairie Community Survey

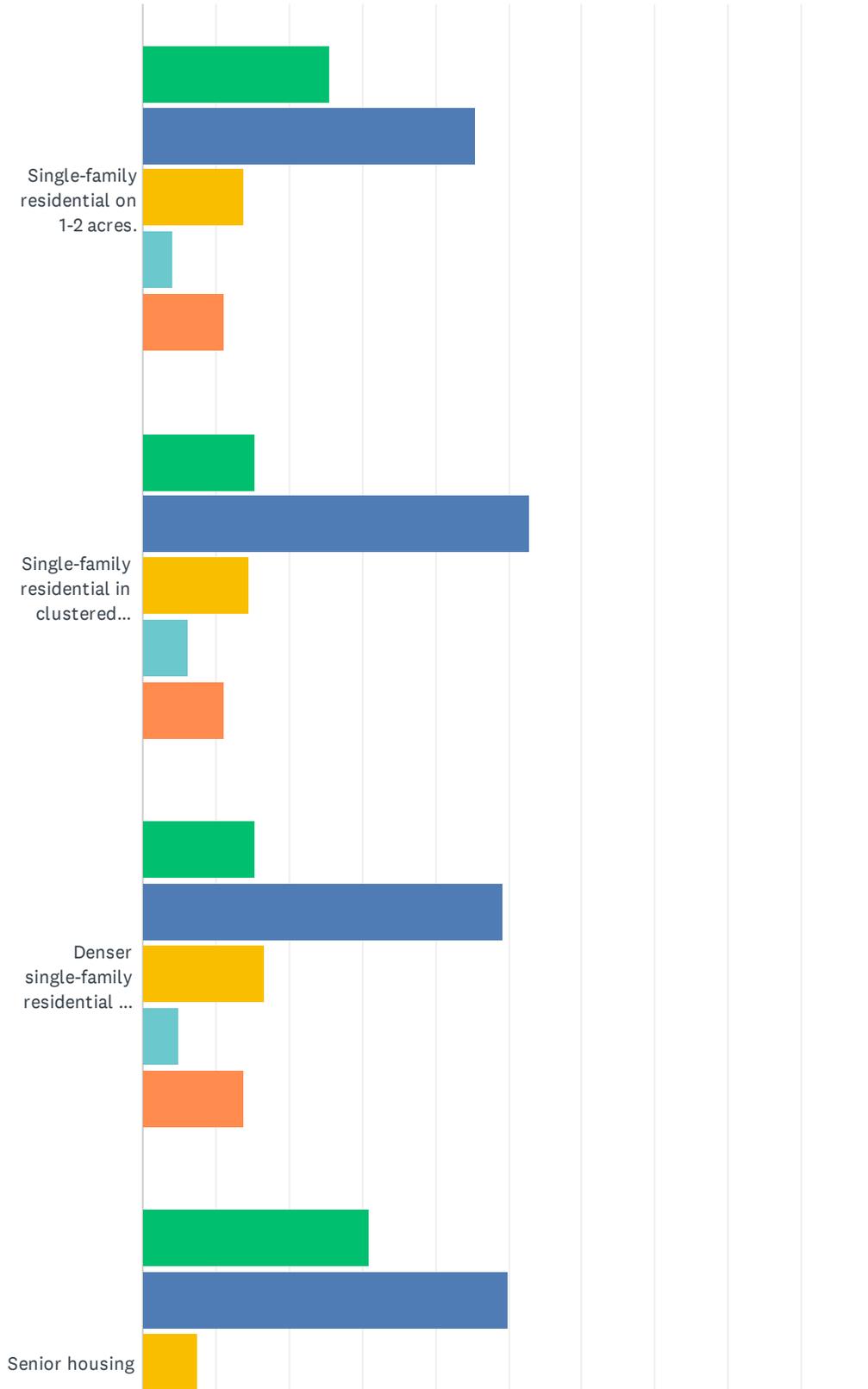


## Long Prairie Community Survey

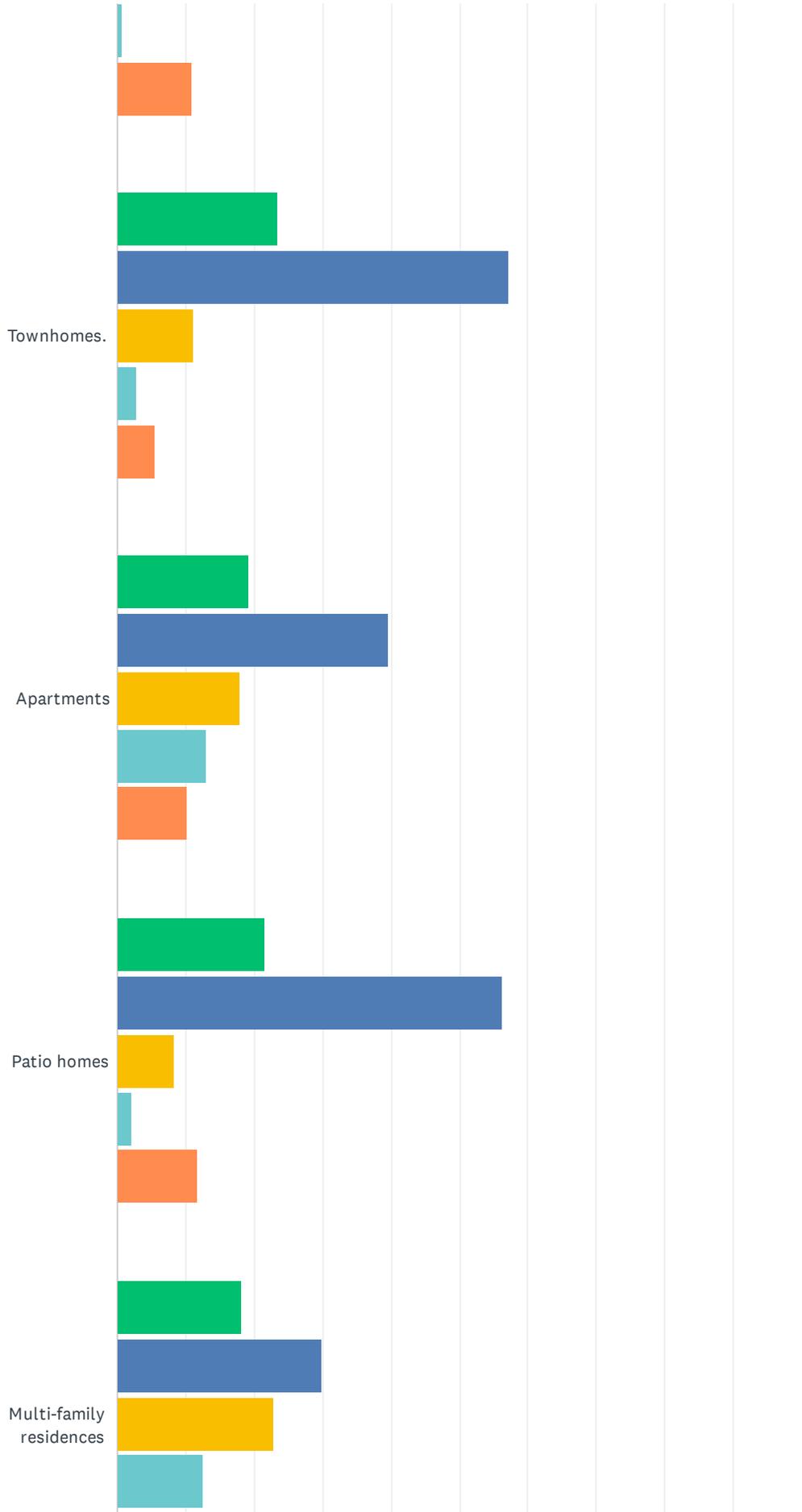
	<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</b>
There is an adequate supply of quality housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, and stages of life.	3.40% 5	14.97% 22	34.69% 51	40.82% 60	6.12% 9	147	3.31
More affordable housing options are needed.	34.69% 51	34.01% 50	10.20% 15	10.88% 16	10.20% 15	147	2.28
More single family homes are needed.	41.10% 60	38.36% 56	4.79% 7	4.79% 7	10.96% 16	146	2.06
More multi-family homes are needed.	24.31% 35	25.69% 37	15.28% 22	15.97% 23	18.75% 27	144	2.79
More rental properties are needed.	28.77% 42	34.93% 51	11.64% 17	13.01% 19	11.64% 17	146	2.44
New housing should be built in and around the Central Business District.	10.88% 16	31.97% 47	23.81% 35	10.88% 16	22.45% 33	147	3.02
New housing should be built within existing neighborhoods.	16.44% 24	46.58% 68	13.01% 19	5.48% 8	18.49% 27	146	2.63

# Q6 In your opinion, the City of Long Prairie should encourage the following types of development?

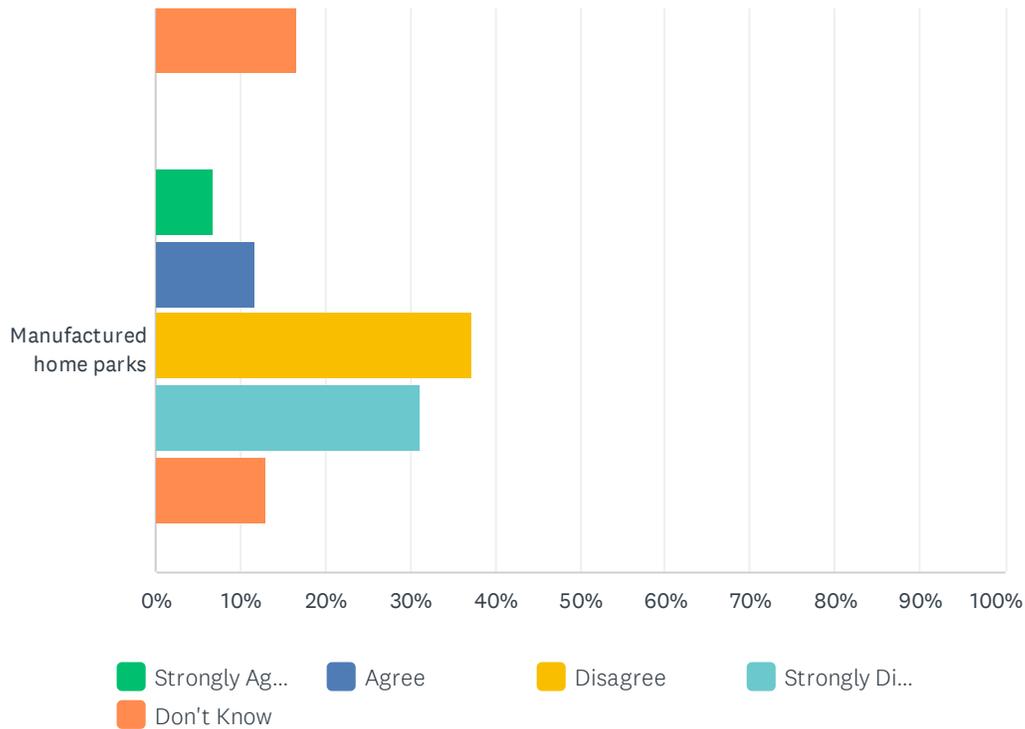
Answered: 146 Skipped: 40



# Long Prairie Community Survey



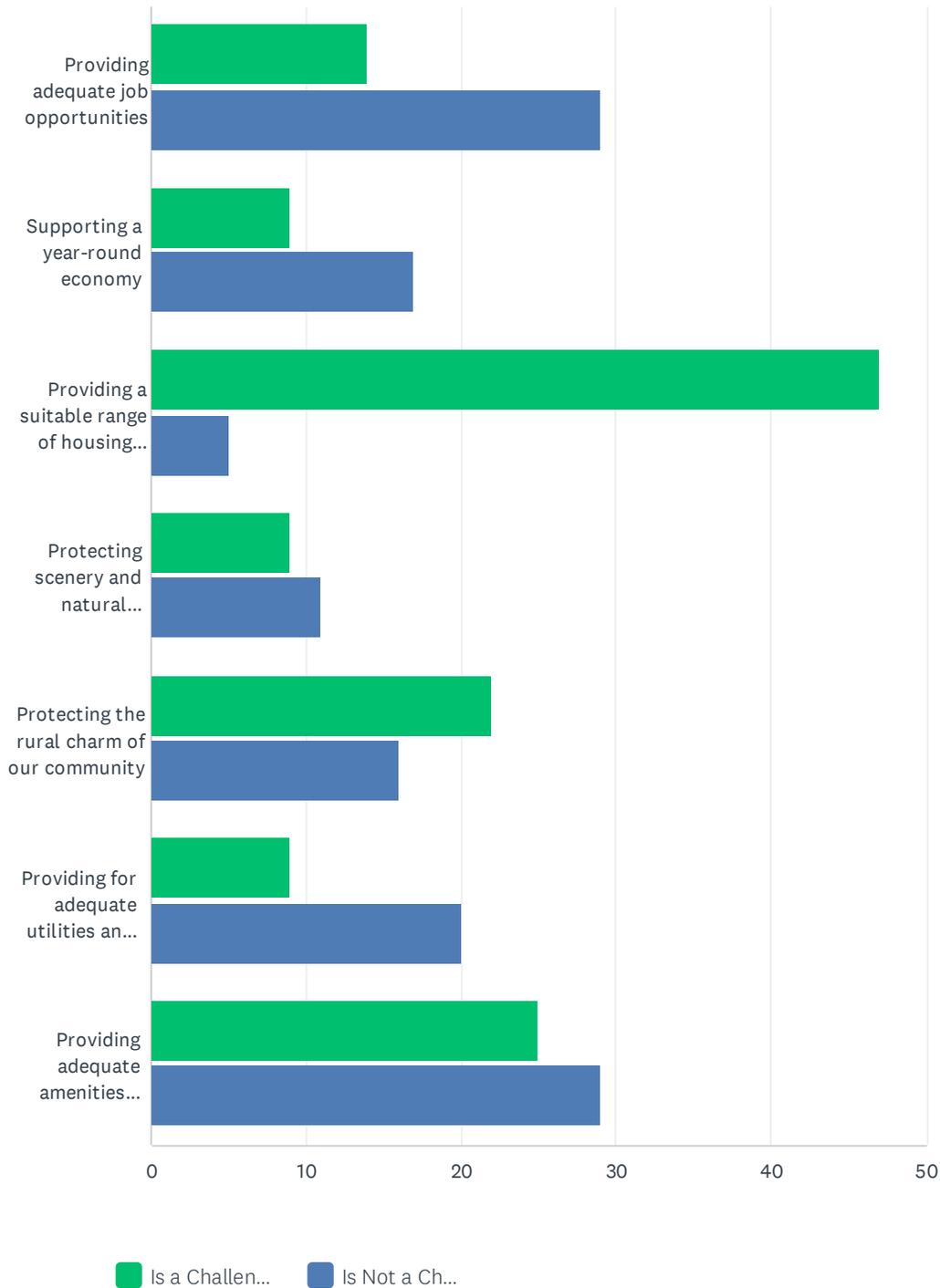
## Long Prairie Community Survey



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Single-family residential on 1-2 acres.	25.52% 37	45.52% 66	13.79% 20	4.14% 6	11.03% 16	145	2.30
Single-family residential in clustered subdivisions.	15.28% 22	52.78% 76	14.58% 21	6.25% 9	11.11% 16	144	2.45
Denser single-family residential on vacant parcels.	15.28% 22	49.31% 71	16.67% 24	4.86% 7	13.89% 20	144	2.53
Senior housing	30.82% 45	50.00% 73	7.53% 11	0.68% 1	10.96% 16	146	2.11
Townhomes.	23.45% 34	57.24% 83	11.03% 16	2.76% 4	5.52% 8	145	2.10
Apartments	19.18% 28	39.73% 58	17.81% 26	13.01% 19	10.27% 15	146	2.55
Patio homes	21.53% 31	56.25% 81	8.33% 12	2.08% 3	11.81% 17	144	2.26
Multi-family residences	18.06% 26	29.86% 43	22.92% 33	12.50% 18	16.67% 24	144	2.80
Manufactured home parks	6.90% 10	11.72% 17	37.24% 54	31.03% 45	13.10% 19	145	3.32

Q7 When it comes to growth and development, indicate whether you feel the following ARE or ARE-NOT challenges for Long Prairie. (Identify the item that is most challenging and least challenging.)

Answered: 141 Skipped: 45

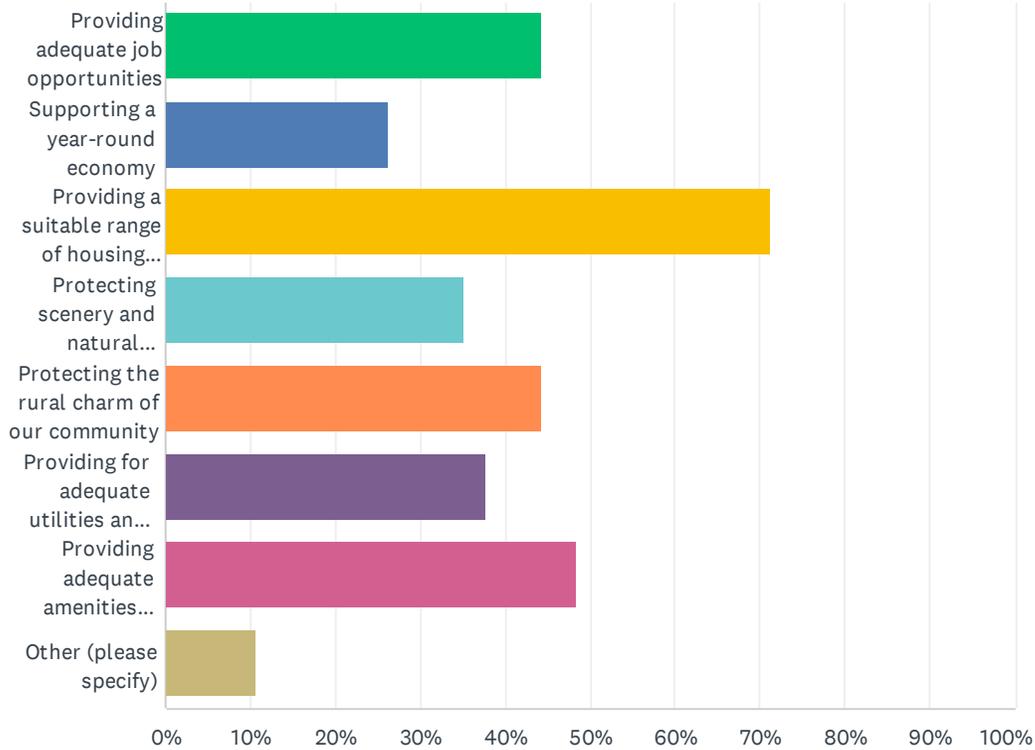


## Long Prairie Community Survey

	IS A CHALLENGE	IS NOT A CHALLENGE	TOTAL
Providing adequate job opportunities	32.56% 14	67.44% 29	43
Supporting a year-round economy	34.62% 9	65.38% 17	26
Providing a suitable range of housing options	90.38% 47	9.62% 5	52
Protecting scenery and natural resources	45.00% 9	55.00% 11	20
Protecting the rural charm of our community	57.89% 22	42.11% 16	38
Providing for adequate utilities and services	31.03% 9	68.97% 20	29
Providing adequate amenities (parks, education, medical, etc.)	46.30% 25	53.70% 29	54

## Q8 When it comes to growth and development, indicate which of the following ARE challenges for Long Prairie.

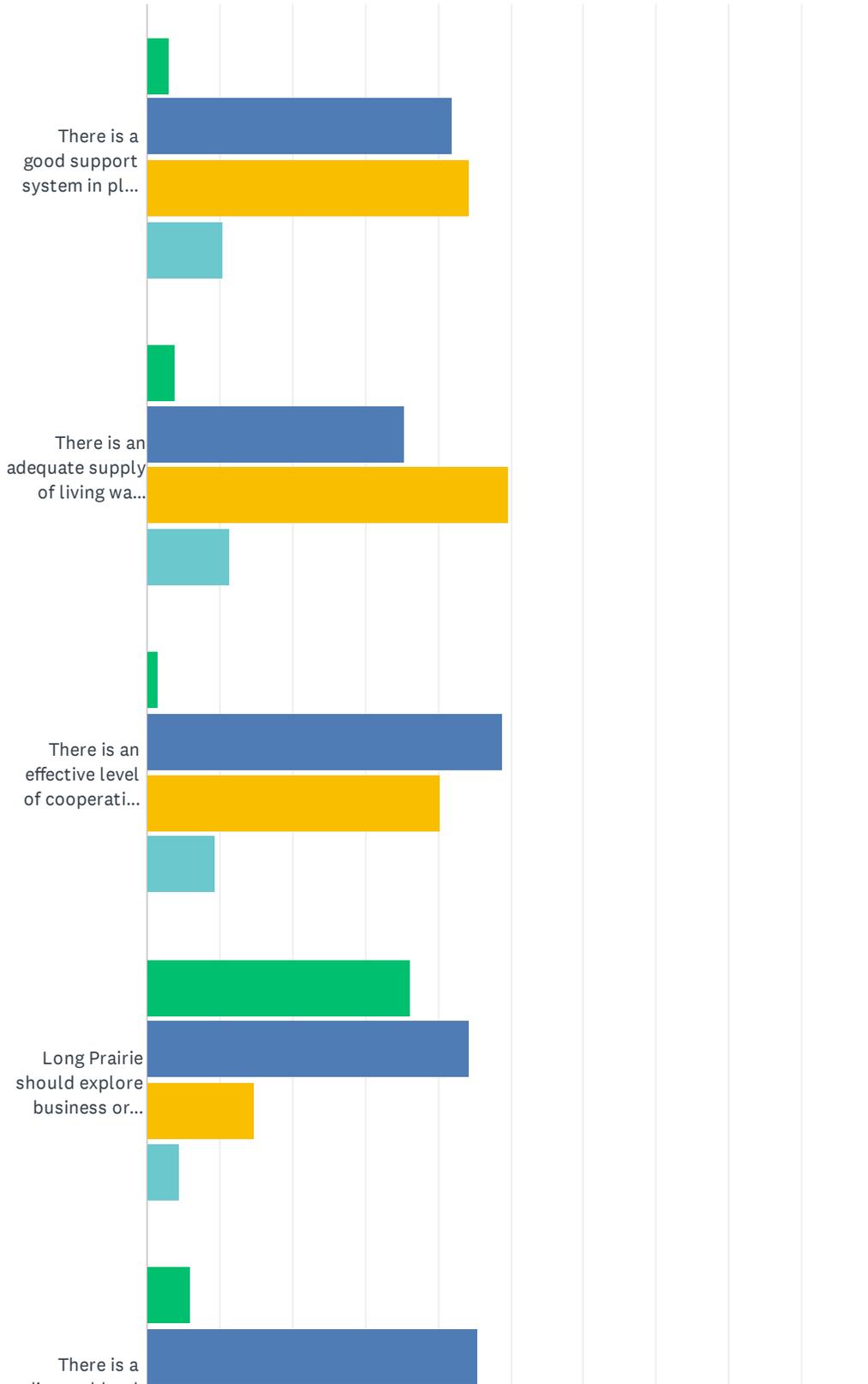
Answered: 122 Skipped: 64



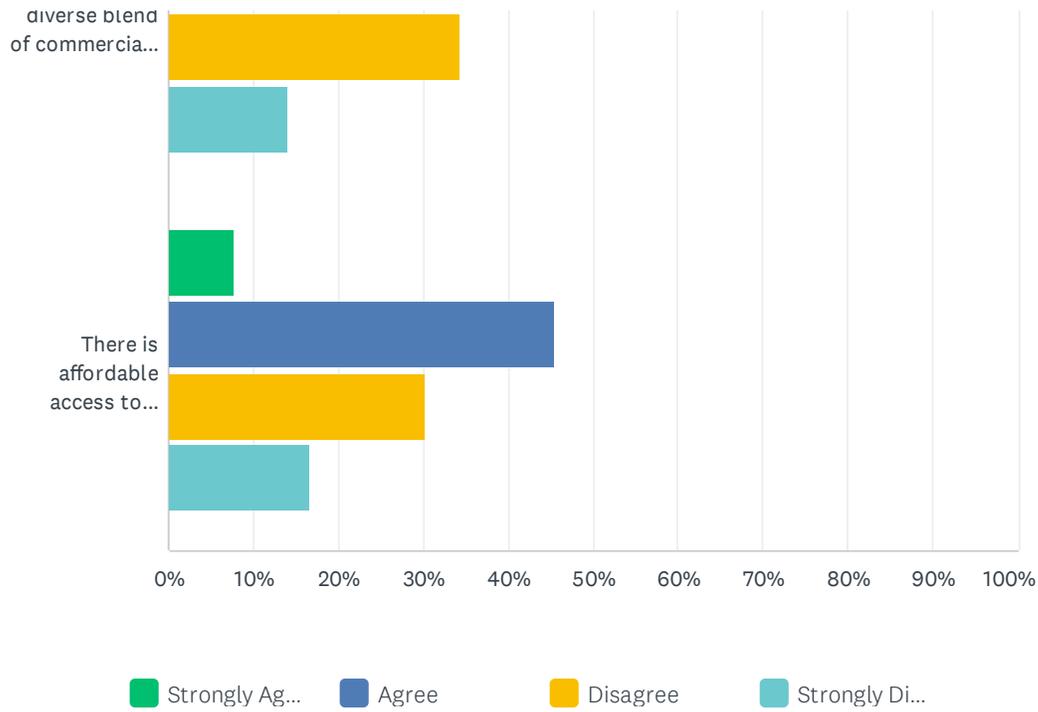
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Providing adequate job opportunities	44.26%	54
Supporting a year-round economy	26.23%	32
Providing a suitable range of housing options	71.31%	87
Protecting scenery and natural resources	35.25%	43
Protecting the rural charm of our community	44.26%	54
Providing for adequate utilities and services	37.70%	46
Providing adequate amenities (parks, education, medical, etc.)	48.36%	59
Other (please specify)	10.66%	13
Total Respondents: 122		

### Q9 Please indicate to what extent you agree with each of the following statements:

Answered: 136 Skipped: 50



## Long Prairie Community Survey



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
There is a good support system in place for entrepreneurs and new businesses.	3.01% 4	42.11% 56	44.36% 59	10.53% 14	133	2.62
There is an adequate supply of living wage jobs.	3.76% 5	35.34% 47	49.62% 66	11.28% 15	133	2.68
There is an effective level of cooperation between Long Prairie and its neighboring communities.	1.55% 2	48.84% 63	40.31% 52	9.30% 12	129	2.57
Long Prairie should explore business or industry recruitment options.	36.30% 49	44.44% 60	14.81% 20	4.44% 6	135	1.87
There is a diverse blend of commercial and service-based businesses.	5.97% 8	45.52% 61	34.33% 46	14.18% 19	134	2.57
There is affordable access to broadband.	7.58% 10	45.45% 60	30.30% 40	16.67% 22	132	2.56

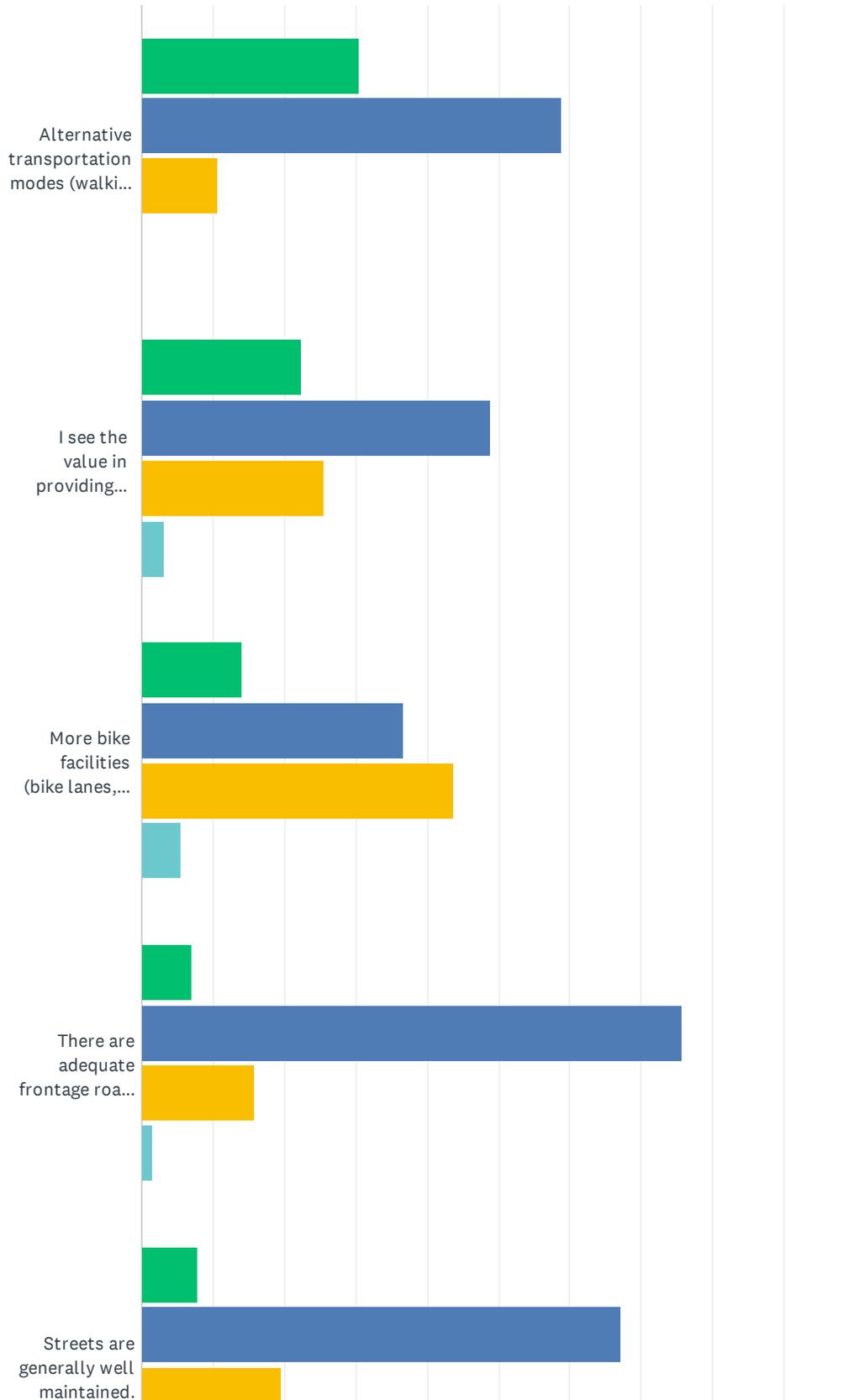
## Q10 What are Long Prairie's three greatest economic development opportunities?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 122

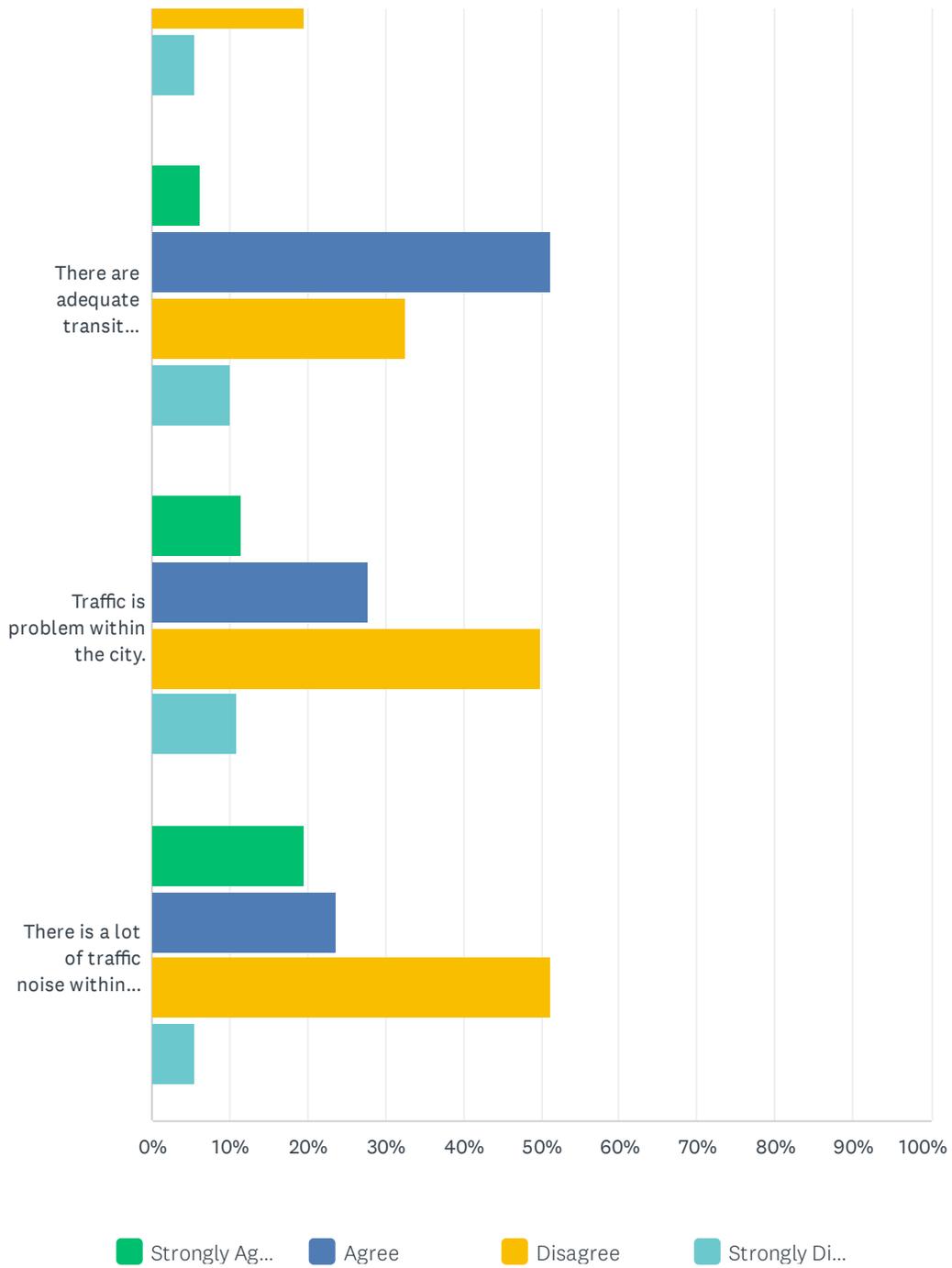
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
#1 Economic Development Opportunity	98.44%	63
#2 Economic Development Opportunity	92.19%	59
#3 Economic Development Opportunity	84.38%	54

### Q11 Please indicate if you agree with the following statements:

Answered: 132 Skipped: 54



# Long Prairie Community Survey

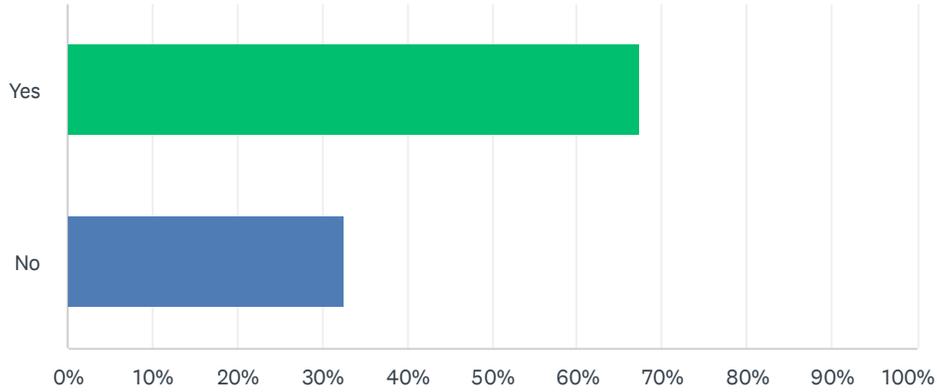


## Long Prairie Community Survey

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Alternative transportation modes (walking, biking, etc.) are important?	30.53% 40	58.78% 77	10.69% 14	0.00% 0	131
I see the value in providing bicycle trails, on-street lanes, and additional sidewalks.	22.48% 29	48.84% 63	25.58% 33	3.10% 4	129
More bike facilities (bike lanes, bike parking, etc.) are needed within the city.	14.06% 18	36.72% 47	43.75% 56	5.47% 7	128
There are adequate frontage roads connecting the City of Long Prairie.	7.09% 9	75.59% 96	15.75% 20	1.57% 2	127
Streets are generally well maintained.	7.81% 10	67.19% 86	19.53% 25	5.47% 7	128
There are adequate transit opportunities available to meet the needs of the community.	6.20% 8	51.16% 66	32.56% 42	10.08% 13	129
Traffic is problem within the city.	11.54% 15	27.69% 36	50.00% 65	10.77% 14	130
There is a lot of traffic noise within the city.	19.69% 25	23.62% 30	51.18% 65	5.51% 7	127

### Q12 In your opinion, does Long Prairie have adequate pedestrian crossings on roadways in town? If not, which locations should be improved?

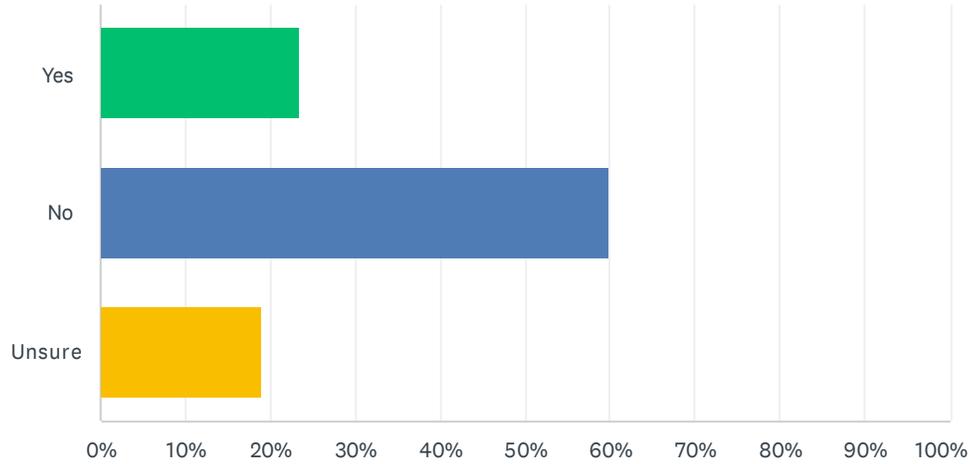
Answered: 129 Skipped: 57



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.44%	87
No	32.56%	42
Total Respondents: 129		

### Q13 Do you find the level of traffic noise in the city of Long Prairie to be problematic?

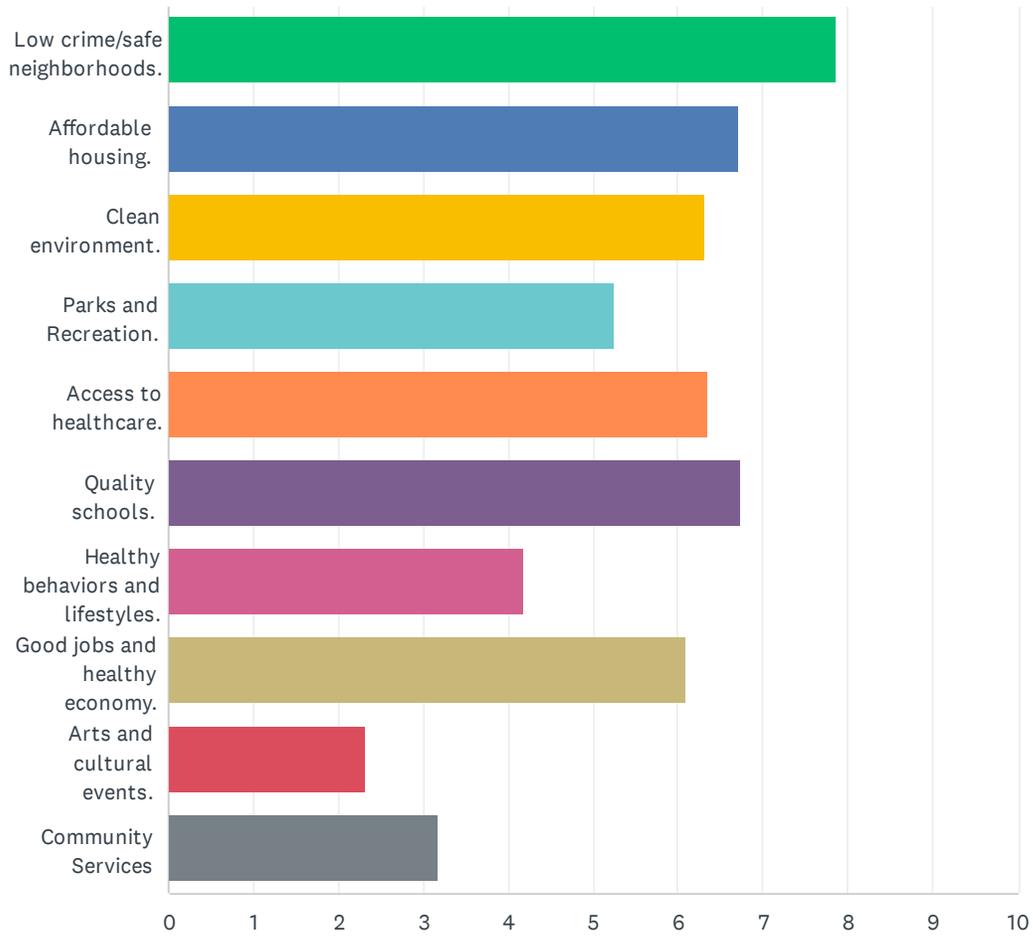
Answered: 132 Skipped: 54



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.48%	31
No	59.85%	79
Unsure	18.94%	25
Total Respondents: 132		

# Q14 Please rank the following list of factors that make for a healthy Long Prairie community.

Answered: 127 Skipped: 59

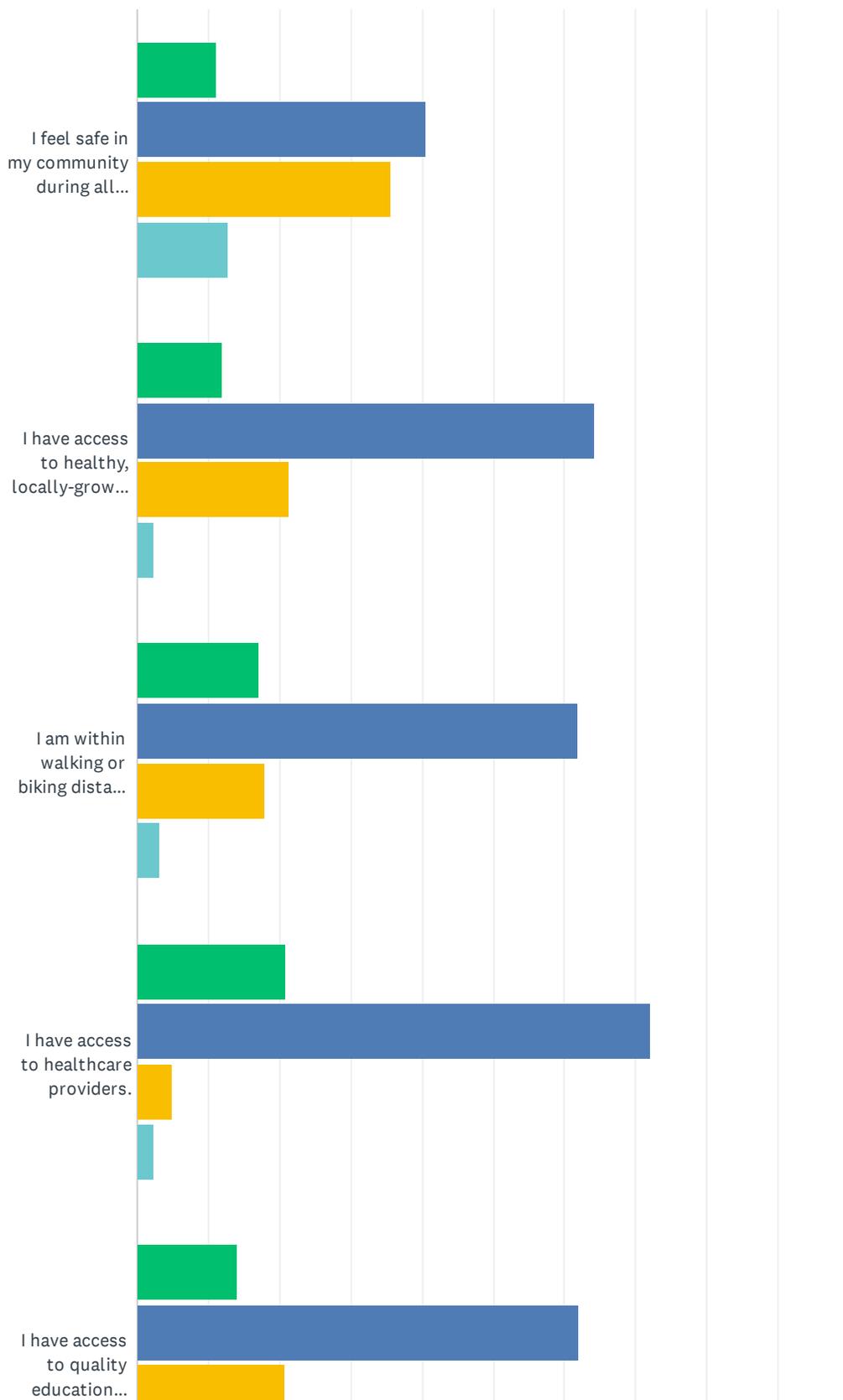


## Long Prairie Community Survey

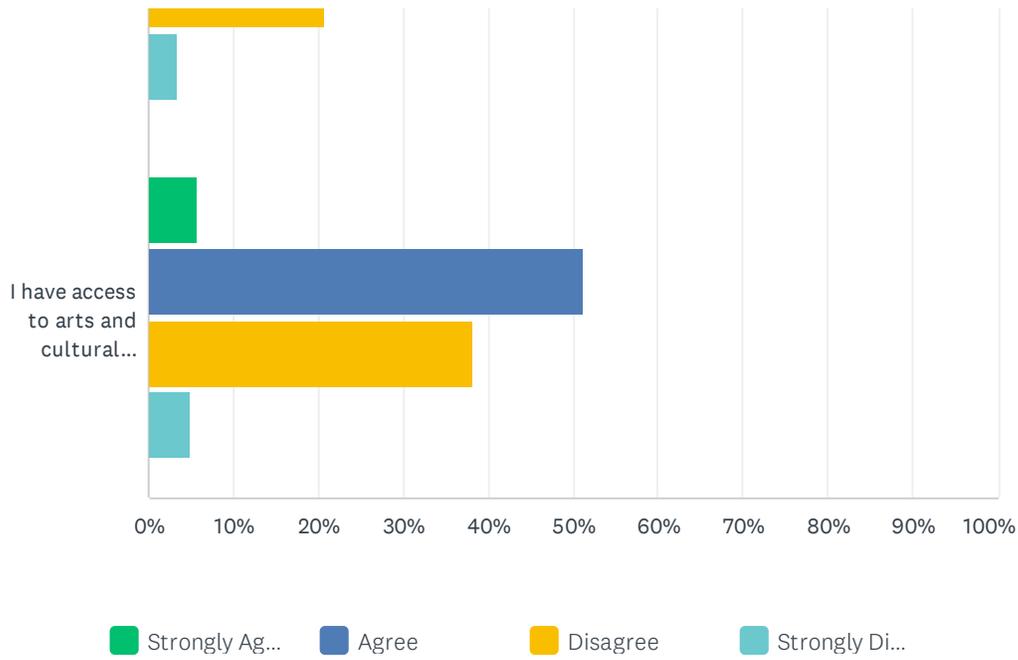
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Low crime/safe neighborhoods.	41.73% 53	14.17% 18	11.81% 15	7.87% 10	5.51% 7	4.72% 6	4.72% 6	2.36% 3	2.36% 3	4.72% 6	127
Affordable housing.	17.32% 22	16.54% 21	13.39% 17	7.87% 10	11.81% 15	9.45% 12	9.45% 12	7.09% 9	3.94% 5	3.15% 4	127
Clean environment.	7.09% 9	11.81% 15	18.90% 24	10.24% 13	12.60% 16	16.54% 21	10.24% 13	7.09% 9	4.72% 6	0.79% 1	127
Parks and Recreation.	1.57% 2	4.72% 6	7.09% 9	21.26% 27	14.17% 18	9.45% 12	16.54% 21	11.81% 15	12.60% 16	0.79% 1	127
Access to healthcare.	7.87% 10	11.02% 14	8.66% 11	17.32% 22	25.20% 32	12.60% 16	6.30% 8	7.09% 9	1.57% 2	2.36% 3	127
Quality schools.	6.30% 8	20.47% 26	22.05% 28	7.87% 10	7.87% 10	21.26% 27	5.51% 7	3.15% 4	4.72% 6	0.79% 1	127
Healthy behaviors and lifestyles.	2.36% 3	3.94% 5	4.72% 6	7.09% 9	3.94% 5	11.81% 15	21.26% 27	21.26% 27	15.75% 20	7.87% 10	127
Good jobs and healthy economy.	13.39% 17	14.17% 18	7.87% 10	12.60% 16	11.02% 14	6.30% 8	7.87% 10	18.11% 23	5.51% 7	3.15% 4	127
Arts and cultural events.	0.79% 1	2.36% 3	0.79% 1	2.36% 3	1.57% 2	1.57% 2	8.66% 11	9.45% 12	27.56% 35	44.88% 57	127
Community Services	1.57% 2	0.79% 1	4.72% 6	5.51% 7	6.30% 8	6.30% 8	9.45% 12	12.60% 16	21.26% 27	31.50% 40	127

### Q15 Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements:

Answered: 127 Skipped: 59



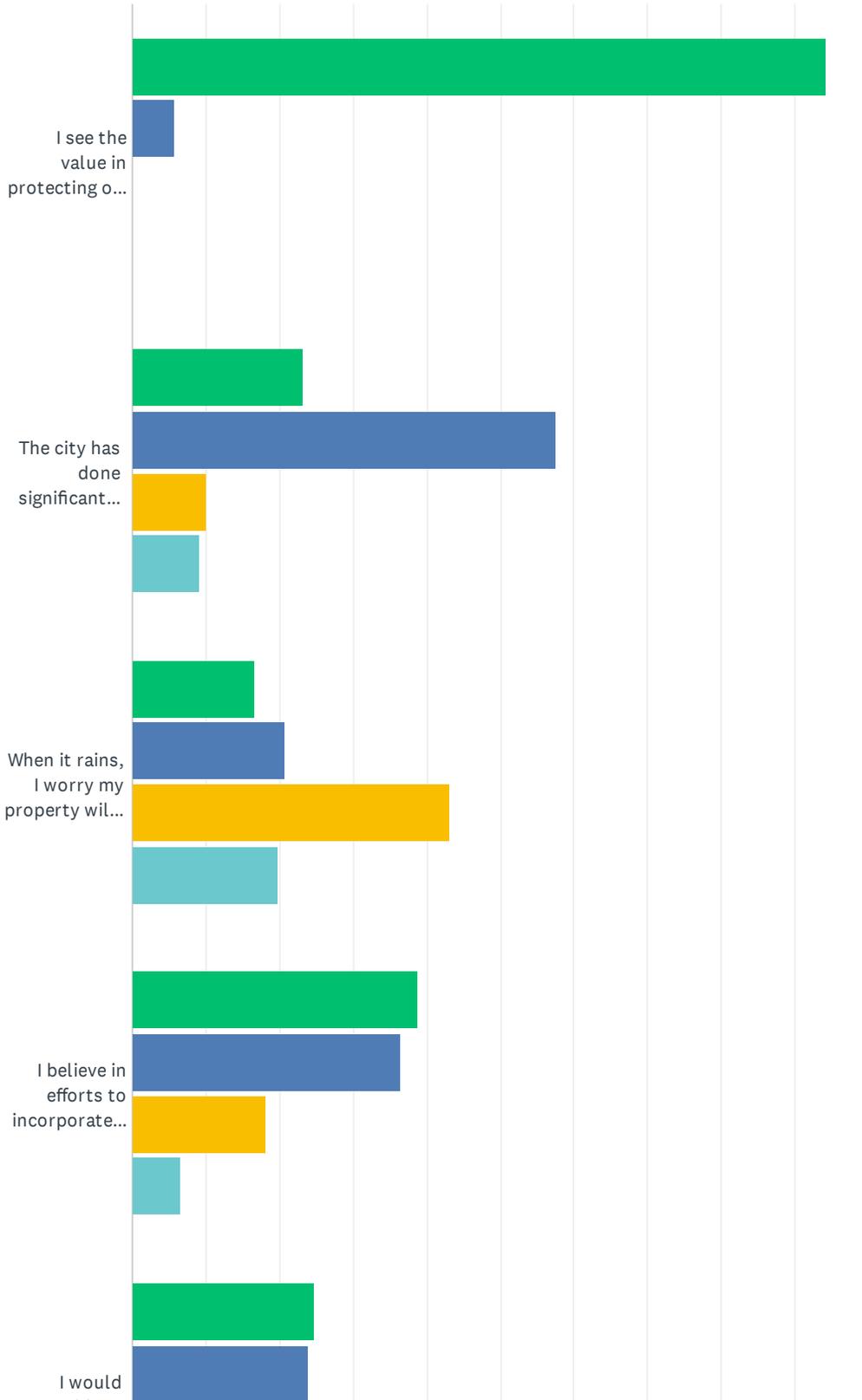
## Long Prairie Community Survey



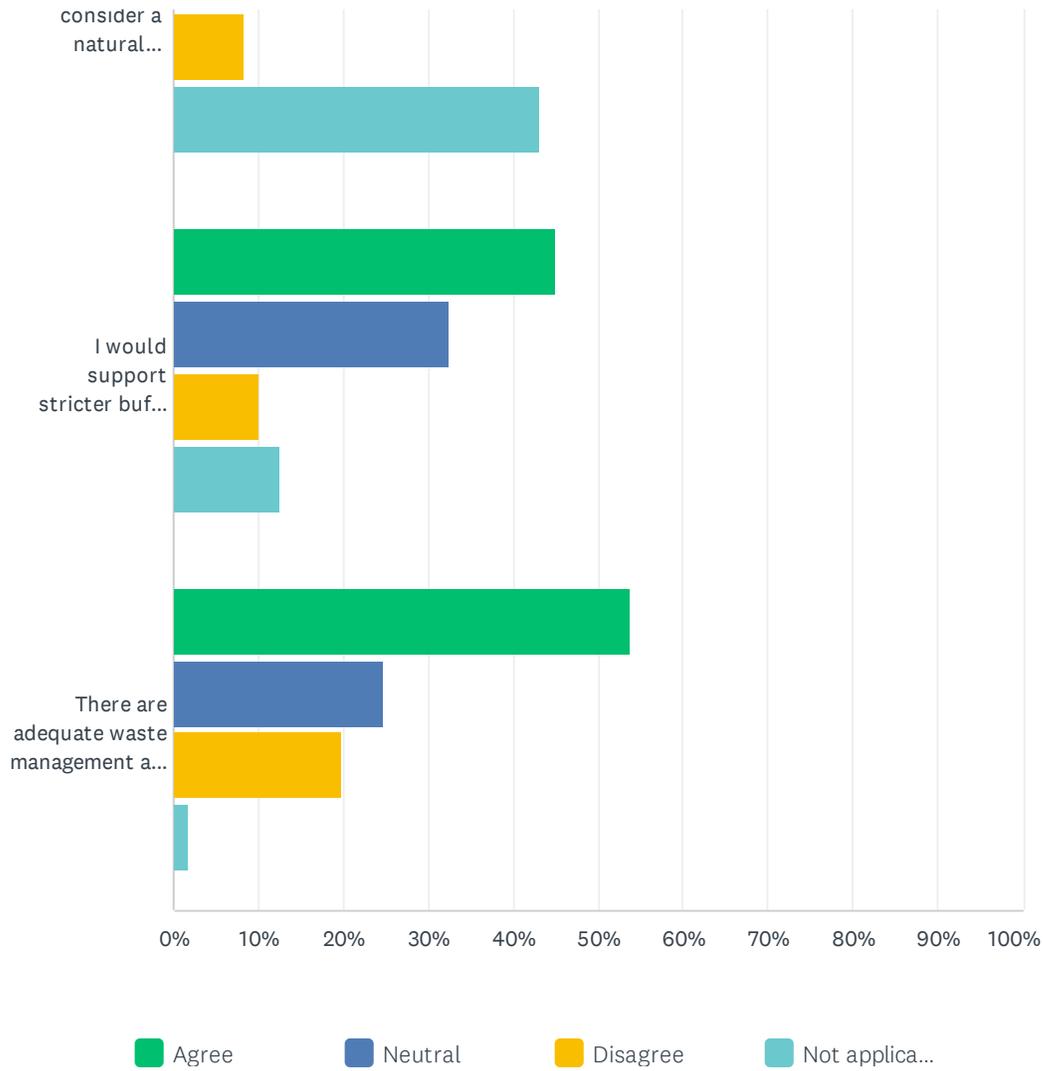
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
I feel safe in my community during all times of the day.	11.11% 14	40.48% 51	35.71% 45	12.70% 16	126
I have access to healthy, locally-grown foods.	11.90% 15	64.29% 81	21.43% 27	2.38% 3	126
I am within walking or biking distance to parks, open spaces, and walking/biking trails.	17.07% 21	61.79% 76	17.89% 22	3.25% 4	123
I have access to healthcare providers.	20.80% 26	72.00% 90	4.80% 6	2.40% 3	125
I have access to quality education opportunities.	14.05% 17	61.98% 75	20.66% 25	3.31% 4	121
I have access to arts and cultural facilities.	5.69% 7	51.22% 63	38.21% 47	4.88% 6	123

# Q16 Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements regarding water quality best management practices (BMP's)

Answered: 122 Skipped: 64



## Long Prairie Community Survey

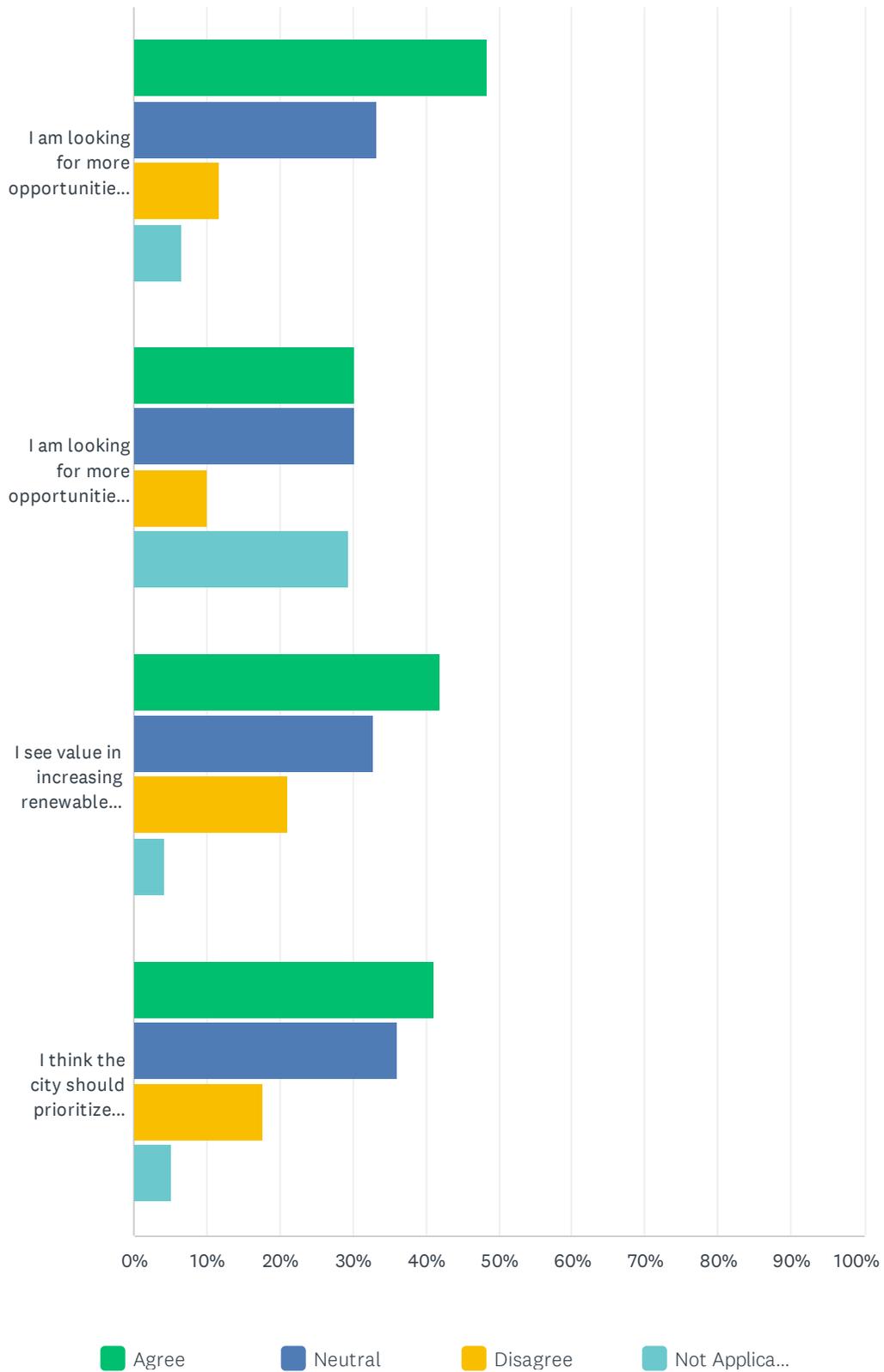


	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I see the value in protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams water quality.	94.26% 115	5.74% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	122	1.06
The city has done significant work to improve stormwater management.	23.33% 28	57.50% 69	10.00% 12	9.17% 11	120	2.05
When it rains, I worry my property will be impacted by erosion or flooding.	16.53% 20	20.66% 25	42.98% 52	19.83% 24	121	2.66
I believe in efforts to incorporate more native grasses and landscape options into residential, commercial, and city-owned properties.	38.84% 47	36.36% 44	18.18% 22	6.61% 8	121	1.93
I would consider a natural vegetation buffer on my shoreland property as a way to protect water quality.	24.79% 30	23.97% 29	8.26% 10	42.98% 52	121	2.69
I would support stricter buffer requirements in an effort to preserve the lake, river, and creek water quality.	45.00% 54	32.50% 39	10.00% 12	12.50% 15	120	1.90
There are adequate waste management and recycling services available to residents.	53.72% 65	24.79% 30	19.83% 24	1.65% 2	121	1.69

**Q17 Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements regarding energy.**

Answered: 120 Skipped: 66

# Long Prairie Community Survey

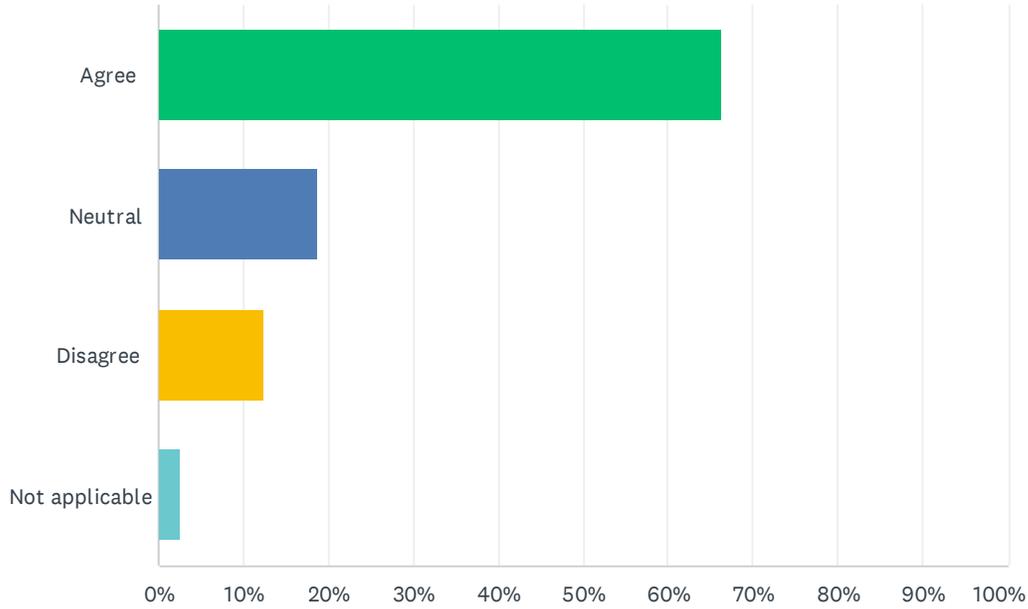


## Long Prairie Community Survey

	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I am looking for more opportunities to participate in energy efficiency measures to reduce my electricity load at my home (i.e. LED lightbulbs, insulation, etc.)	48.33% 58	33.33% 40	11.67% 14	6.67% 8	120	1.77
I am looking for more opportunities participate in energy efficiency measures to reduce my electricity load at my business	30.25% 36	30.25% 36	10.08% 12	29.41% 35	119	2.39
I see value in increasing renewable energy such as solar, wind, and hydropower.	42.02% 50	32.77% 39	21.01% 25	4.20% 5	119	1.87
I think the city should prioritize supporting energy efficiency projects.	41.18% 49	36.13% 43	17.65% 21	5.04% 6	119	1.87

### Q18 The odor(s) in Long Prairie negatively affect my quality of life (commerce, recreation, health and sense of well being).

Answered: 122 Skipped: 64



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	66.39%	81
Neutral	18.85%	23
Disagree	12.30%	15
Not applicable	2.46%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>122</b>

**Q19 What opportunities do you see for energy and environment related projects in Long Prairie?**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 145

Q19 Answers:

Clean up the air quality, it's disgusting. Clean up or tear down and rebuild the multitude of old uninhabitable houses.

Figure out a way to prevent the smells that come from Central Bi, Prairie Packing, and the city lagoons.

Solar

Limit the installation of agricultural drainage tiles to reduce fertilizers and pesticides in our waterways. Promote wetland habitat as a buffer zone.

Maybe if it stinks bad enough, all the people will leave and you can make a solar field.

We should install solar wherever possible to create energy independence. We should clean up Riverside park to include more native plants and a cleaner environment.

You should have asked more questions about the smell. That has a big impact on day to day life. There are at times that is so bad I can't sleep.

There are bigger problems than energy and environment projects at the moment. Maintaining mosquito park is a complete waste of time and resources imo. LP needs to focus on cleaning up main street and neighborhoods that look like used car lots. When extension cords are being ran across main street from building to building, it looks like The beginning development of a 3rd world country. It's awesome when you are told by authority figures to not walk down main street past 6 pm as it's not safe. People getting shot, breaking into homes, etc. Yeah, energy efficiency is at the bottom of the list. The past city officials let it all ride and turned a blind eye and now we have a mess. Our schools are crap, kids are afraid to use the bathrooms because they'll get jumped, only 1 bathroom with no stall doors for the boys due to vaping and smoking weed. Kids watching Netflix at school, gradebooks not being updated for months at a time. I think we need to clean house and get honest people in the school and city and work on these issues. It's ridiculous.

Improvements in smell

Improve air quality

I believe the City should participate in GREEN STEPS and collaborate with the CERTS.

Wastewater treatment needs more attention; the city and it's partners have done a very poor job at maintaining treatment facilities which has caused extreme issues with odor, and harmful gasses which has effected many peoples health and quality of life. Energy affordability should be a priority for the city.

There definitely needs to be more education about native plants and wildlife. The smell prevents me from having the windows open at times, which in turn causes me to turn on the air conditioning during warmer days.

Long Prairie has a lot of opportunities for solar farms and stricter regulations for shoreline/river property owners.

Promoting its resources and making sure it's in great working order. Wind turbines and solar panels would take away any land which could be used for development. Sad the city sold their land to the north, this could have been used in so many ways..... terrible leadership.

We need the rendering plant, that is understood, but we need to ensure that they are responsible in their operations to properly manage and maintain the ponds. This is not happening and the highest level of concern and issue with the Long Prairie at the moment.

Continue to get odors eliminated

No comment

As housing is renewed or built, efforts to make sure that energy conservation is a must and is actually achieved

Recycling options available for the public. Composting for the school and public buildings

None

I am not sure about electric vehicle charging stations but that might be an option. Creating natural gas might be another opportunity.

Help businesses with ways to decrease energy use and costs.

Bike trail – complete the portion thru Todd County that is missing

None, the best option for alternative energy are hydroelectric and nuclear and no one will even consider these

I believe that we need to be very aware of the fact that several of our larger farms are impacting our water table. I would also like to see our corporate farms being more diligent about runoff into our lakes and waterways. I would like to see upgrades in our energy infrastructure.

The odor is an absolute nightmare. I live four blocks from the center of town and Central Biproducts odor makes it impossible to enjoy living here with my amazing backyard. Seriously considering moving. I will not be able to enjoy my son's birthday this summer outdoors due to this, nor any other family gatherings at my house. Let alone get fresh air with open windows and turn off my air conditioner

Energy more efficiency. My daughter has asma so, en it smell bad. She cannot be outside. Something to help with air quality

Less chemical spraying – or more communication to community members when spraying in public spaces like parks and walking paths. More tree planing for future air quality. More attention to detail in landscaping.

Solar energy

None of this is necessary if there is not a healthy business district adding to the community. You need thriving businesses who are willing to put monies into the community.

I think they need to crack down on the smells from Central Bi Products. If they use the air scrubbers and keep their building doors closed it will not stink up the whole town. I also think there needs to be something done about the digester smell they assure us when they put in the digester if it was maintained correctly it would not smell. They were wrong it smells up the city.

Move industries off the river and out of downtown. Add botanical garden somewhere. There are practically no opportunities though bc the industries control the town. The environment was ruined long ago and they keep ruining it with no regard for the citizens. They won't do anything about it.

Frisbee golf course a complete waste of money. Usage in nill & maintenance is high

Discounts to homes that use energy efficient appliances, heating/cooler, etc.

I don't know

Cleaner air year especially coming from Central Bi. Can't hardly have windows open in the summer time when it's nice out without worrying if Central Bi is going to be stinking up town.

Supporting the businesses you have. Encouraging growth with them. Supporting the proposed digester south east of town.

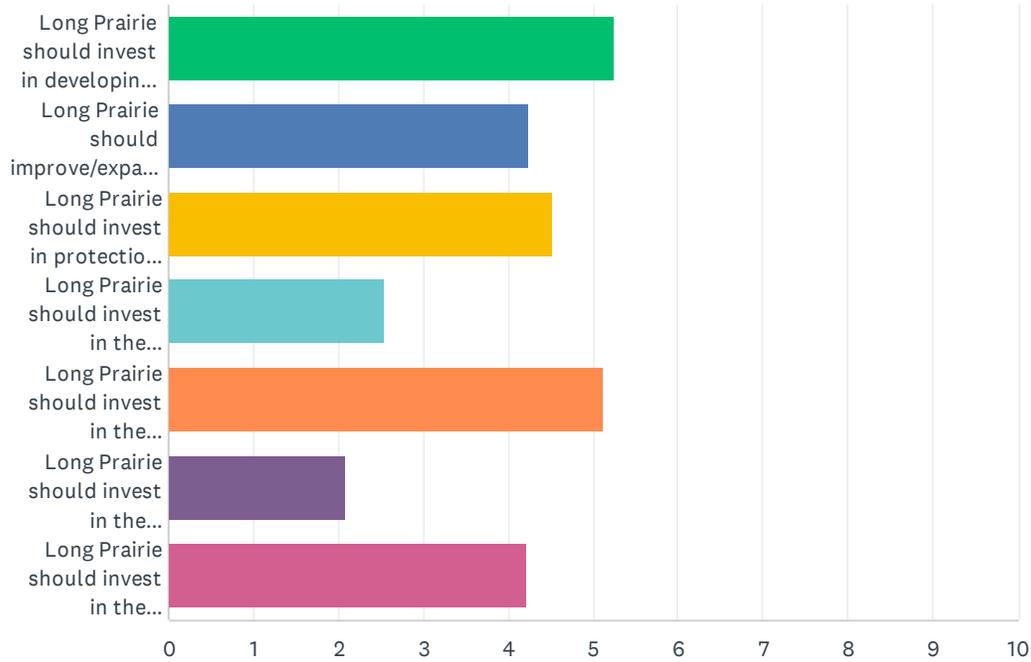
Solar panels, windmills.

Move the industrial businesses out to their own park that is NOT on a river. Clean up the LP river by ending all industrial emissions and feedlots located right on the river. Downtown industrial businesses should be moved. The areas where these businesses have been for decades should be turned into housing (packing plant as apartments and trailer park area to single family development), central ave manufacturer building and county building torn down and make back to a park but add amazing tourist attracting flower garden that smells good and people can walk around. Redo the county museum in a nice inviting building in a nature area like by the Riverside Park- so people can go to both nature and indoor historical area. All feedlots, industry, manufacturing MUST be further away from the river and wetlands and far from the residential areas! Smoke and odor shouldn't be what welcomes people to the town. Put museum and attractions in town or on 71 instead.

The cleaning of the ponds at Riverside will provide reservoirs for water to mitigate both flooding and drought.

## Q20 Please rank the following list of factors for Long Prairies' parks and trails:

Answered: 116 Skipped: 70



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Long Prairie should invest in developing a paved walking/bicycling trail.	30.17% 35	20.69% 24	22.41% 26	9.48% 11	6.03% 7	9.48% 11	1.72% 2	116	5.24
Long Prairie should improve/expand access to public beaches.	3.45% 4	18.97% 22	24.14% 28	23.28% 27	18.10% 21	6.90% 8	5.17% 6	116	4.25
Long Prairie should invest in protection of our natural resources and environment for future generations.	15.52% 18	17.24% 20	20.69% 24	17.24% 20	15.52% 18	8.62% 10	5.17% 6	116	4.53
Long Prairie should invest in the development of a local dog park.	2.59% 3	4.31% 5	1.72% 2	13.79% 16	19.83% 23	28.45% 33	29.31% 34	116	2.53
Long Prairie should invest in the development of a community center.	29.31% 34	24.14% 28	13.79% 16	7.76% 9	13.79% 16	9.48% 11	1.72% 2	116	5.12
Long Prairie should invest in the development of a skate park.	0.00% 0	2.59% 3	2.59% 3	10.34% 12	14.66% 17	26.72% 31	43.10% 50	116	2.10
Long Prairie should invest in the development of a splash pad.	18.97% 22	12.07% 14	14.66% 17	18.10% 21	12.07% 14	10.34% 12	13.79% 16	116	4.22

**Q21 What are other long-range issues the comprehensive plan update should address?**

Answered: 51 Skipped: 135

Q21 Answers:

Landlords should have licenses that are checked and renewed every other year at least. With safety and health requirements in order to rent properties.

In-town noise is a huge problem

Feeling safe

Paved bike trails on the old train tracks, state park, things for older kids to do

One family homes, left to one family homes. Cars off the lawns. All residents obey laws!

The smell of our town is hideous and visitors are appalled at the stench.

Not an issue, but would love to see an indoor athletic facility with a community center – basketball courts, walking track, other spaces for indoor activities since winters are so long. Revitalizing the run down buildings, especially Main Street. This does not mean resorting old to me though. I would rather see new identity built, something that pushes us forward vs keeping us in the past.

Stop the stink!!! Our town smells EVERY day!!!!

Include more diverse perspectives in these discussions

LP packing exploration of humans and how that impacts our community and them.

Things for teens and kids to enjoy – more community education opportunities.

See above.

Sense of community

Fix houses on Hwy 71 makes town look like a dump. Have business on Main Street look nice.

We need a community center.

Developing a sense of community with ALL community members

Better maintenance of existing soccer fields

Fishing the road project that was started 2 yrs ago

In regards to parks etc..... the list above is fine.

Measured growth, rebuild a poor public perception caused by odor coming from the city's wastewater treatment facility

Deal with the horrible odor. It has been a huge problem for years.

Offering property tax breaks for new development in the industrial park. If a new company comes, then focus on housing developments to accompany people moving to the area. Industry should have factory, office, maintenance.

The continuous foul smell of LP! We have always had it but is continually getting worse on a daily basis, especially the NE side of town.

Upkeep costs. How long until something is outdated.

Sidewalks

Leadership, this is a waste of time if leadership stays the same

More American restaurants and fast food places

The community cannot grow without expansion. Unfortunately, many community members want to keep the same 'small town' life and not allow expansion of business, housing, etc. Addressing education on this fact for LP and the County is essential for change management.

Can't think of any other than need adequate parking and keep owners/renters from parking on grass and keeping grass mowed.

Unkept and cleanliness on Main Street. There is a lot of potential to have a charming and inviting Main Street.

No alternan vehicle in the parks.

Transportation for seniors, children and people with little access. This is huge. Housing, all types, is also a problem.

Child Care

Main street is pretty much dead unless something can figure out something to encourage businesses to move there. I visit small towns that are doing well but with the deterioration of the main street I don't see that happening in Long Prairie.

We need a community center! There is a great need for space for our community to have opportunities for recreation and gathering space !

Child care with extended hours.

Behavior on people and kids. To follow up the rulers

Improve the current sidewalks and ADA accessibility to the current sidewalks all over town. They are in severe need of repair. I cannot get a stroller down many of them and end up walking in the street.

Having a green space near the downtown would be beneficial to appearance for the community. Most communities have a green space that can be used for events. Our parks are too far away and focused on playgrounds. While this is good, I feel there could be more places. Harmony park is fantastic, but does not have enough green space. Lake Charlotte is too far away from businesses. Another area to address is the physical wellness of our community members based on age. Living in an ice/snow prevalent area for a large portion of the year, and indoor walking track in a community center. Also for mental health, having a community center for all people to use and gather. This could draw people in for sporting tournaments and raise funds for the community, it could cut down on mental health issues, physical health needs, and crime.

Buses not scheduled during the weekends and early evening. Lack of a volunteer transportation availability. More access to educational and cultural activities newspaper that supports our community

City Housing

Central Avenue needs to be cleaned up there is junk cars sitting in clear view not behind a fence. There are buildings with bricks falls off of them. There are businesses with paper covering the windows. There are businesses with garbage in front of them. Would be nice to figure out how we can clean up these businesses and look like a nice clean town like it used to.

Housing

Move the industry to one industrial location, actually follow the rules, if the council doesn't follow the ordinances then citizens should be able to remove them from office by petition of 300 people.

Fixing and maintaining historic homes/buildings

Downtown face lift.... work on a Beautification project for downtown.

Biggest issue is housing of all levels. Beginner homes. Places for elderly to live, barrier free. Apartment complex. Townhomes. Single family homes. We cannot grow our community without a place to live.

Replace a chief of police so we can maybe get the traffic under control like all the speeding

Na

The zoning is way too spotty. We keep giving land to uses that don't go with the zone. The city needs to 1) stop giving permits for wrong land use, 2) litigate businesses who aren't in conformity, 3) make a zone

for these ppl and stick to it. The city comp plan should pave the way for including Lake Charlotte and extending it's borders south on Hwy 71 to meet these objectives.

There should be a pedestrian bridge crossing the Long Prairie River and connecting Westside Park and Riverside Park. The stonework structures at Riverside Park need repair.