

### **Q3: As Madison County grows, what about your community should stay the same?**

## **SMALL TOWN FEEL**

Ambience

As our community grows, I would want the small-town feel to stay the same.

As WDSM grows closer we need to stay unique. keep the joy and uniqueness - Continue to be open to people and welcome them.

Don't want it to grow too fast

Everything! I live here and not in Des Moines for a reason!

hometown atmosphere

Hometown atmosphere

Hometown feel, independence.

Hopefully improvements won't lose the small-town feeling.

I hope we can continue the small town feel.

I never want to lose that small-town feel or the simplicity of small-town living.

independence

Its sense of "small town America"

Its small town feel and look.

Keep small town attitude.

keep the small-town atmosphere

Keep Winterset beautiful and contained – with no urban sprawl, messy strip malls, cookie cutter housing development

left Des Moines every day for 43 years to get to "real" people in small town

Let's keep the 'small town' feel.

Love the smaller town feel. Trying to foster that and keep that in place....

needs to be a small amount of people

not any more people

not become overpopulated or "Des Moines sized" small town feel - Keep local businesses

Quaintness!

Remain in our core values, not to get too urbanized. People come to the small town for the appeal of it, maybe a step back in time by some, but loved for the slower pace.

Small

small community

small scale

Small town "Mayberry" feel.

small town

small town

Small town atmosphere

Small Town atmosphere

small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere, even as we grow.

Small town caring

Small town character.

small town charm

small town charm

Small town charm.

Small town feel

Small town feel - Sense of community

small town feel - continue what we have/do right now

Small town feel - do not want it to ever become like Ankeny or Waukee.

Small town feel - low population,

Small town feel!!

Small town feel

Small town feel and the convenience of small town living.

small town feel such as community band.

Small town feel with large town opportunities.

Small town feel,

Small town feel

small town feel, churches working together

Small town feel, low crime

Small town feel, many move here for the small-town atmosphere, we don't want it to turn into a big city.

Small town feel.

Small town feeling

Small town feeling

small town feeling, tourism

Small town feeling.

small town hospitality

Small town life

Small town neighborhoods close to square

Small town pride

Small town pride

Small town/ county feel. Sense of community.

small-town feel

Stay feeling small, not too commercialized

stay small

That "small town" feel.

The "small town". The nostalgia feeling.

The blend of small town charm

The close-knit community

the culture and small town feel

The feeling of the small town

the hometown feeling

the population

The pride of our people for their individual communities!

the rural feel with big city availability

The small community feel.

The small familiar community it is. Growing is good but not losing the small town feel

The small home town feel

The small hometown feel should remain.

The small-town atmosphere.

The small-town atmosphere.

The small-town attitude

the small-town charm

The small-town community feel.

The small town feel

The small town feel and identity separate from the Des Moines Metro.

The small town feel and safety of a small town.

The 'small town' feel should remain at all costs!

The small town feel where people care more about each other than about profits.

the small town feel with all the amenities of a large community

The small-town feel

the small-town feel, but with big town amenities

The small-town feel.

the small-town feel.

The small-town feeling

The small-town feeling.

The smaller town atmosphere.

the small-town feel

The small-town feel of connectedness.

The small-town feel of recognizing people everywhere you go and the helpfulness of the city workers and business owners.

the way of life

trying to keep the small-town feeling

We should always maintain what we love about small town living...our neighbors and neighborhoods,

Winterset will need to continue the small-town draw...safety.

## PEOPLE CHARACTERISTICS

### Values, Attitudes, Behaviors, Relationships

(small town) attitudes

a community where one keeps their doors open and welcomes their neighbors

Being a safe community of caring people.

Closeness of community in helping others!

community spirit, not be a suburb of Des Moines

Community, the community that pulls us together to help one another out.

compassionate people

continue to have a neighborly outlook & ethic of helping each other

Embrace young people who settle in Winterset.

everyone is connected to everyone else (friendly)

Everyone working together a sense of community

Everything changes and improves - just keep the thinking of caring, positive growth

Focus on family

friendliness

friendliness of the people

Friendliness, neighborly, willing to help others. Friendliness.

Friendliness

Friendly

Friendly, small town feeling

friendly, welcoming

I have been in the area for nine months and have been welcomed as a person, not a sub-group. i.e. political party, church membership, single political stance. I do not want that element of the community to change.

I think that one thing that should stay the same is the sense of community and

keep friendly, kind neighborhood - good neighbors

Kindness

know your neighbors, feeling welcome

knowing who the people are in the community

local connections

Maintain pride in the community

Neighboring, public concern, security.

Neighbors helping neighbors, supporting those in need.

nice people

NO VIOLENCE.

Our community should remain family-friendly and supportive.

Our pride for the community

people

people

people helping others

People helping people, community feeling,

People keep caring about what happens to their neighbors.

people knowing each other should not lessen, keep neighborhood feeling

People knowing one another

Pioneering spirit

Preserving the community is important.

pride in our community

Sense of community and support for other local businesses.

Sense of community.

Sense of community. We are a community made up of individuals, not individuals that are just a number on a census.

simplicity, friendly atmosphere

Smiles and hospitality, also

Stay friendly

Support of schools

The close-knit feel, people supporting each other.

The community spirit and pride.

The connections

the cozy, close knit community

The culture of accountability, work, and civil discourse.

The culture of respect and collaboration.

The family atmosphere that you get. I've never seen anyone turn anyone away

The feeling of community - of caring about each of our citizens.

The focus on community and family

The Historical & Patriotic beliefs of our founding fathers

The love and compassion that we share and support, when there is crisis in families. Whether it be fundraisers, auctions or etc.

The morals and values of the community

the nice people

the niceness

the people

the people and friendliness

The people and the close-knit sense of community should remain the same.

the people!

the people,

The People.

the personal experiences

The person-to-person communication is very important. Lots of people who know each other as friends and colleagues and who welcome new friends and colleagues.

The pride that people take in their community.

The small-town effect of people gathering to enjoy the many benefits of living outside the city. Friendly nature of community members is important. Helping one another in the event of tragedy or illness. Coming together to promote our community.

The small-town values that do not cater to those who are the loudest.

The Soul

The spirit of what it means to be a part of a community

the way the kids are always being watched.

the welcoming feeling.

The willingness for neighbors to help neighbors.

Values of the land, family, community

We are a close-knit people who care about one another and that should be a focus, whatever growth we see. We will need to enfold the newcomers and provide amenities that they are used to having; and allow them to share their ideas for 'community' and adapt or blend the familiar with the new. If we 'resent' the growth, Winterset and Madison County will cease being a welcoming city! Head that off before it starts!

We must continue to encourage people to be respectful of others.

We need to foster more good neighbor practices to care for each other so we don't have to be regulated to death.

welcoming attitude

welcoming efforts including tourism

Well-connected community members (i.e., the feeling you "know everyone"). Keeping Winterset well maintained.

Who we each are within our community - friendly, thoughtful and ready to help others.

## COMMERCE, BUSINESSES, JOBS

Absolutely NO Walmart or Walmart-type stores!

Access to retail shops and fitness facilities

Access to the current services should not diminish.

all stores

All the locally owned businesses.

being friendly and welcoming to visitors -- to our stores, restaurants and accommodations.

Ben Franklin's

Bomgaars replacing Shopko is a good thing, family-owned business.

Chamber as it is great and always looking for ways to promote the entire county not just Winterset.

chamber of commerce,

developing our economic health by shopping local & attracting new businesses

downtown businesses in various towns

easy access to business

Emphasis on local economy, both retail and industry.

encouraging artisan businesses

focus on keeping our small businesses and merchants thriving

Focus on locally owned business

Friendly service, easy access and services for all people, esp. the elderly,

Garrison Action Center.

Great places to work.

great shopping

Grocery stores. Small businesses around square

having all the businesses that I use still be strong and growing

I believe we need to keep supporting small businesses, and let no big businesses take over our community.

I want to avoid large shopping like Wal-Mart.

keep local businesses

Keep the mix of small and medium employers.

keeping business in the small businesses

Let's support our restaurants, theater and places of entertainment so that they thrive and provide social outlets to youth and adults. The Wineries and the Cidery, plus Cobblestone Hotel and the Event Venues around the county are great but we must continue to utilize what they offer so that they thrive here.

local business growth

Local businesses vs big box stores. Small town prices.

local family owned business

Local retail stores

Montross fountain and grill

more economic development!

no adult (xxx) businesses...

NO Walmart or McDonald's!

Our businesses in Winterset

profitable businesses

Restaurants

shopping

Small businesses

Small businesses

small stores

small town businesses

Small town shopping feeling (not an outside mall feeling). No Walmart

Small, locally owned businesses

stores around the square

support of local businesses

support small businesses

Supporting local

The "locally owned" feel

the amount of schools

the businesses, the theater,

The fresh ideas to draw in new businesses/develop the area.

the resources that people need in various times in their life (nursing home, hospital, diners, grocery store, counseling, etc., the list goes on). Have these resources without having to leave town.

the retail environment

The shops that cater to locals.

the small businesses

The small shops/boutiques.

The small-time businesses such as Ben Franklin and the Cellar are great places to build community.

the small-town shops

the stores - Keep Walmart O-U-T!!

The support of local businesses.

Tourism

Variety of small businesses, multiple grocery stores.

very few barriers to starting/opening new businesses,

Vibrant and successful businesses.

Vital businesses.

We don't need any super big single employers. Keep casinos out.

We should support local businesses to grow and improve.

Yes, I'd love a Walmart but I know it would hurt our quaint little shops

# THE SQUARE

(thriving merchants) especially around the courthouse.

An active town center

Beauty of the shopping town square area...Refurbishing the buildings exteriors has been very successful.

care for Courthouse and square

Courthouse Square and caring

Definitely the downtown flowers--gorgeous.

Downtown

Downtown

downtown

Downtown square.

Emphasis around the square - keeping it vital.

Focus on city square as center of community life.

free parking,

Hopefully, the local Courthouse will remain. It is the center of our town. The town square. It is a focal point. The lovely hanging baskets each summer. Thanks to Jim O. and Dave T. we have them for now. Hope they continue.

Keep downtown area.

Keep downtown Winterset clean

keeping a viable square

lovely flowers around square

Maintain viable businesses that focus on the square and surrounding blocks. Opportunities for locals to shop as well as visitors.

Nothing stays the same. But the courthouse is neat!

Our town square and business district should also stay the same.

Our town square with no empty store fronts & profitable businesses; Our well-kept courthouse in the center of the square

Our town square!

Our town square

Please preserve the charm of the buildings downtown.

small businesses around the town square. Focus on beauty of the town square--flowers on each corner, hanging baskets on light poles.

Square

stores around the square

the Court House and grounds

The Downtown

the heritage of the town square

The historic town square

The Madison County Courthouse must remain the center of government in our County.

The small historic quaint feel around the town square

The Square and its old small town charm.

The square and little shops are all so beautiful.

The square

the square

the Square

The square.

The square.

the thriving, beautiful town square

The town square is beautiful and feels wholesome and quaint to me.

The TOWN SQUARE!!! No Walmart!

The town square.

The vintage feel on the square

the Winterset square

Town square and court house appearance

Town square.

Town square. Amount of traffic and parking around the square.

uniqueness of Square,

Vibrant square/downtown;

We have a great downtown square that is in great shape and gets taken care of very well. We need to keep this up!

Winterset square

## **RECREATION / ENTERTAINMENT / ACTIVITIES**

Activities for students outside of school.

activities in town square

All the different things to see and do

Although the size of the event might grow and as well as the attendance, keeping the events going to bring the community together is important.

celebrate Bridge Festival

community events

County fair

events, festivals

fair and festivals

Healthy and educational activities offered by schools & city & county departments. Community-wide eventfulness with activities for young families keeps the younger demographic interested in our locale.

Love the fair and covered bridge festival.

Many festivals that help community gather together

People love it and want to come visit, kayak, shop, hike etc.

providing community events that support many interests

providing family-oriented activities; focusing on the well-being of our youth

recreation facilities, fairgrounds, Jackson Building

same events we have

the attractions

The band concerts are great (but would be much better if all of them were at the museum instead of the loud courthouse square.) The theater productions are very good; hopefully will have more in the future.

The Fair

The theater

The various opportunities for entertainment.

Town events keep us connected

yearly events

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Groups, Churches, Volunteering

A strong church presence

ability to get involved in the community

All the local community support

Citizens volunteering to keep Winterset homey friendly and Iowa nice

Community support of the school systems

Continue to bring new residents and old residents together.

Continue to build community through our churches & schools & other institutions...

I value the degree to which volunteers make events, programs, and businesses work in my area.

importance churches play

involvement

Local representation on boards

Many people support the multiple activities of the 4 service organizations.

people feeling a part of community not just users

reaching out to newcomers and welcoming their ideas and energy

Relationships need to be continued between neighbors, school and community, churches, and those in need.

service and social organizations

so much to do in Winterset

The attitude of support the community gives to the many projects of improving the community

The community spirit which referred to before

The opportunities to be involved

The strong network of businesses, government, and private citizens that work together to keep Winterset relevant to all generations of people.

Volunteer participation and activism.

volunteers

Wednesday church night, community band

where people come together to help make beautiful things happen

Willingness to volunteer and be self-sufficient.

## **CITY GOVERNMENT**

### **Library, Safety, Services**

2 lanes into Winterset on 92 and 69.

all services

be tough on crime to keep it in control

city park, public library

community services

Crime rate

Emergency services

freedom, maintain as little government as possible

Keep fireworks legal, we love them!!

Keep my taxes lower. This is not Des Moines and we shouldn't run the town as if it were DM.

keep property taxes low

keeping our taxes down

Let's keep responsive city and county government.

library

Library

Library

Lower taxes and fees

Number of city and county employees.

Police Department

Public library accessible and relevant to all.

reliable fire and police departments, strong library,

safety

safety

safety.

Taxes should not go up,

The safety of our community.

## **PLANNING / GROWTH / HOUSING**

A psychologist should be involved in any community development to ensure that the design caters to people being able to easily access the newest feature.

Affordable housing

change is constant, we all have to adjust

Continue to grow the county at a manageable and healthy rate.

Decent low cost housing for the elderly

Determination to stay an autonomous community with its character intact.

Economic development should continue to be a priority.

Everything should grow, always need for improvements, especially as the community grows  
growth means change

Growth means change, and that's okay.

I do not like to see other businesses on the outskirts of our town. Please, NO Walmart!

I think we have room to grow

I think we want it to still stay an individual town and not become part of Des Moines by growing too fast and expanding too rapidly.

Impossible to stay the same as we grow or you're stagnate. Hopefully grow moderately and not too fast. Slow growth is easier to work with.

It is hard to have growth change without change.

It should grow also

Keep big companies like Walmart out to keep our small town small

Keep looking forward and being innovative

keep the P.U.D. Developments out in the new high dollar home areas.

Lower taxes than Des Moines and surrounding area to encourage growth.

make sure resources can accommodate growth (water and energy).

No! It needs to grow right along with the county. We need to provide more housing and services.

not grow as fast as some communities such as Waukee or that we become a bedroom community to Des Moines.

Our determination to continue improving and making progress

Perhaps more single family housing development

Predominance of single family dwellings –

pride of community - open to new ideas

Protection of rural landscape and areas-not infringed upon by business development where not wanted or well-planned.

set growth rate not to exceed 2.5% of the population.

the population

The rush to pack so many in small spaces. Seems like tiny sub communities arising as if they were tumors rather than part of the body. Having such propensity for density will denature the character of Winterset which brought us to retire in this county seat. Perhaps more single family housing development

Winterset needs to focus on making small, locally owned businesses their priority. No Walmart or big corporate chains. If we have to have a chain, make it an Iowa one.

Winterset should grow accordingly.

Winterset should stay its own community, and not become part of the urban sprawl

## CITY LAND USE / APPEARANCE/ PROPERTY

all the beautiful trees

bridges, parks,

City Park

clean

Cleanliness

Cleanliness

Green spaces, clean water and healthy soil should be preserved.

Greenspace areas and parks.

I think we should continue to enhance and expand our parks and public lands. Many people in the area love the outdoors and Madison County has so much to offer in that area.

Lake, trees,

Landscape

Large trees, well cared-for homes,

our parks

parks

parks

Parks

parks

parks & rec

parks,

Pride in keeping our town looking clean and beautiful

protecting/preserving our green space - Madison County - our quality of life

Quality homes

The amount of green space

The Cemetery in Winterset

The city is clean and kept beautiful. The majority of residents take pride in their property.

The cleanliness of the town.

The display of flags during various holidays is great.

the look of our community.

The natural areas, parks.

The tree-lined residential streets are beautiful, and our streets have houses big and small.

## **HISTORY / ARTS & CULTURE**

### **MUSEUMS, HERITAGE**

appreciation & honoring of our history & caring for our historic buildings & features

Architecture, with appropriate renovations. The culture should also remain the same

arts

Bridges

bridges and points of interest (John Wayne museum, etc.)

Connection & appreciation to our past

continue to invest in cultural assets

covered bridges

Facilities that make this area a tourist attraction should retain character and charm and make changes necessary to maintain appeal

Focus on our valuable history builds pride in our communities.

free/easy access to Bridges,

heritage of the town square

Historic buildings

Historic Charm

Historic feeling of downtown

historic places

historical buildings

historical buildings

Historical buildings. Many people visit Winterset to enjoy the history, John Wayne, bridges, city park etc. Winterset needs to continue to capitalize on the historic feel that the community has which draws tourism

Historical parts.

historical preservation

historical venues

Honoring history by upkeep of courthouse and other various important buildings.

I love the historical integrity of Winterset.

keep and restore old buildings, especially around the square

Keep the fair and fairgrounds

Keeping the historic places that we have

Keeping traditions alive such as John Wayne, Covered Bridges, etc.

Majestic Victorian homes

Maintain connection to past.

museums/art center; continue our appreciation of the arts

Our culture

our parks and bridges and points of interest (John Wayne museum, etc.)

preservation of historical places (bridges, Clarks Tower, etc.)

Preserve historic buildings

respect for and promotion of historical significance of community

the attractions

the Covered Bridges of Madison County, John Wayne Birthplace

The emphasis on history, the bridge tours

the famous landmarks within the county

the historic sites, the friendliness, the abundance of businesses around the square

The historical building and events

The historical places

The preservation of historic buildings, bridges, homes

The tourist attractions

the traditions

To me, it's important that the architecture of the town square be both intact and enhanced as it is now with the facade project.

Traditions

Winterset has been able to combine new with the old that preserves the ambiance and wonder of the past. I hope that continues.

## **RURAL LIFE / COUNTY ISSUES**

### **Land Preservation, Wind**

This will always be a farming community as well as a commuter town.

Careful consideration of rural development. What types of rural developments should be allowed and why?

conservation of land and resources

conserve and protect the land - don't pave over the farmland

county government offices

County seat

don't waste farmland

Emphasis on natural area protection. Value of open viewsheds.

family farms/agricultural land

farmland

Farms

feeling for and respect for rural history

I want the large vistas to remain beautiful and untarnished.

It's unfortunate that we are not preserving the little bit of land that we already have. This is an extremely high expectation, and I know we SHOULD share, but I would rather recycle houses than build and add to the land. One day, there will be nothing left to share.

Keep farm land for agricultural use only

keep keystone natural areas for people to connect with nature

Maintain prairie grasses and wildlife preservation should be #1 topic during any discussion of planned development.

No more wind farms please!

No wind turbines on farm ground or near residences

No wind turbines please. Keep the rural beauty

Our identity as rural farming community. When urban sprawl dominates the northeast fourth of the county, I will re-consider if I want to live here or move to a more rural area.

Our land must be preserved - NO WIND FARMS should be allowed to fill the fields and destroy our natural resources.

Protection of rural landscape and areas-not infringed upon by business development where not wanted or well-planned.

respect for the farming community which is slipping away

Rural culture, working agricultural systems.

Rural life.

Rural lifestyle,

small rural setting family owned and operated merchants and farms

The beautiful views. No windmills showing up close to the scenic byway.

The beautiful viewscape.

the beauty of our landscape

the characteristic rural landscape and agricultural production

the countryside

The landscape, it's what differentiates us from Des Moines.

We must be respectful of homeowners regarding wind generators, etc. which changes the landscape drastically.

We need to give very serious consideration to planning that can add to the tax base, allow development, but preserve the rural quality of where we live. If we don't want to look like Waukee, we'd better start recognizing that people who want only to make money will happily guide us there. In short, the County's comprehensive plan is simply a cut and paste document from other county document and the Supervisors plans to update via working with SW Iowa government agencies or "planners" will fall well short of establishing a vision to protect the unique qualities we have in this county so close to a metropolitan area. Visit Lancaster County PA planning process. This is a county with a large central city (Lancaster City) but could be compared to Des Moines and its relationship to us.

wildlife, beauty of nature fields and pastures, creeks and rivers

Wind turbine development should stop, given it is harming the property values and tourism value of our community.

## SCHOOLS

1 school district

A quality school system

Focus on education!

good schools

Good support of the schools.

high quality schools

high quality schools

Let's keep great schools and teachers; helping the teachers and staff to see Winterset as their future and forever home.

Maintain or improve the quality of our education system

Schools

Schools

# HEALTH CARE / ELDERLY & FAMILY SERVICES

access to health care

best possible medical care

doctors, hospital

Health care provision.

high quality health care facilities and providers

hospital

Maintain our county hospital and courthouse.

## OTHER

everything

Everything.

giving people what they deserve

I feel some things have gotten out of control. It's too late to change.

I liked Madison county better in the 1970's than I do now

It should stay the same as it always has been. That is what makes our community unique.

maybe

Most things currently here should stay as is

No

Not sure

the "hidden" portion

There isn't anything the same now.

Vigilant defense of US and State constitutional rights.

Yes

yes

yes, stay the same