

Q6: What else is important to you about where you live?

SMALL TOWN FEEL

And we appreciate coming back home to our more quiet life here after a trip to the metro area. Less traffic - feel safe here (though I know it would only take one horrible instance of "badness" to take that away)

ease of navigating around the community

How quiet traffic is.

I love where I live!

Just the small town feel and all the nice people

Keeping the small town feeling we have going on here in town. Knowing you neighbors and your co-workers.

Love almost everything about our community.

low traffic

no traffic

quiet - no traffic problems

quiet - usually peaceful

quiet communities, knowing my neighbor, preserving the sense of small town life

quiet,

Quiet.

small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere with progress.

that it is small enough to know others and be a part of something!

The peaceful solitude

the privacy, peace,

The small town values.

We don't often have traffic problems.

We love that it's not a "bedroom community". It's quiet and welcoming.

PEOPLE CHARACTERISTICS

Values, Attitudes, Behaviors, Relationships

A community that is accepting of diversity, of aging people, a more affordable hotel or hostel.

a good place to raise a family

A sense of connectedness to the land and like-minded people who care about not only where we all choose to live, but how we all treat one another.

Although this town seems behind on race relations, they're ahead on how they treat people with different sexual orientations

People are kind.

Belonging vs. fitting in. To belong is to be yourself in your community, to fit in is to be someone/something else to survive in your community.

caring community that supports each other!!

Communication-don't assume everyone knows how it's "always been done".

community closeness

diverse backgrounds among the residents,

family

family is all here

family lives here

Family time.

family,

family, friend, pets

feeling safe & loved - wonderful neighbors!

friendly and caring residents, community pride.

friendly people,

hear everyone out - make people feel like Winterset is their town - build each other up

helping others less fortunate

Honesty and integrity are the mainstays of good community life.

I feel like our citizens take for granted the great things we have in our community. It's as though it's easier and more acceptable to criticize and berate rather than be thankful and appreciate the blessings around us.

I like how the people get along, even if they don't agree.

I love talking and meeting new people and I think it's important to have communication skills and be able to hold a good conversation with a stranger.

I love the spirit of support our community has

I value my independence - do my own snow blowing - I've lived here 87 years - Winterset & Madison County have seen lots of improvement.

I want a caring and accepting populace. I want children who are taught how to think, how to reason, how to be good citizens, good parents, and involved in bettering their neighbors lives and thus their own.

I would like to have the "powers that be" help people like me feel I am welcome, not just my donations.

It is important that I feel welcome in a community. I did not grow up in Winterset or Madison County. I am essentially a transplant. I have always felt welcome in Winterset.

It would be nice if longtime residents would be more welcoming to people who move in and not be so closed into their old friend groups

Keep our family life striving for the best for ALL age groups

Kindness of people

kindness of people

Kindness. Togetherness.

my friends

My neighbors. They are great. They are friends. I hope they see me the same.

neighbor helping neighbor.

Neighbors are great.

neighbors caring

nice people

One thing that is very important about Winterset is the sense of community. Everything that I am involved in has people in it that are very friendly and I like that.

Overall acceptance of being a good citizen and doing your part is an issue. We have to find ways to make this more inviting to families. We have turned into a "what's in it for me" community. How can we show folks how they can benefit themselves as well as others at the same time?

people

People treating each other as neighbors

people

Respect between neighbors

responsible citizens

Sense of community, people being kind to each other and when the need arises, pitching in to make it a better place to live.

staying family-friendly

That people care for and value Winterset.

that people get along, listen to each other (even those who differ in views from yours), or at least be tolerant and "live and let live" as mentioned before –

That people work together to help each other

The fact that during a period in our national history when many people are at extremes and at odds, we pretty much work together to lift everyone.

the family and friends around me

The feeling of community.

the love and support

The love and support people give our farmers and blue collar workers.

the people

The people

the people - everyone know everyone - our community as a whole is friendly

The people who live here are faithful to God.

The sense of community and the friendliness.

The sense of community that exists,

The togetherness, belonging, ease of "fitting in",

the way people treat each other.

The willingness of people to help those less fortunate.

We have some serious needs that many are not aware of. electronic babysitters are an issue

Winterset is a great place to live. However, you definitely feel the difference in how you are treated if you didn't grow up here.

Winterset is a nice place to live and raise a family. I hope it stays that way!

Wonderful people,

Young people are mostly polite and respectful

COMMERCE, BUSINESSES, JOBS

Ability to have access to many of same things as big city.

Attempt to shop local- we need a competently run restaurant or two! Support the entrepreneurs! (Pammel Park, PepperHarrow, Wineries, Cidery, Barr Bison, etc.)

being able to find the things I need

Bringing in a couple more reputable businesses that require hiring 20 or more.

Christmas stores being open at night and weekends,

Economic opportunity.

Employment opportunities for those that want to work in town.

food

Healthy restaurants for people who are health-conscious

I can get almost everything I need right here

I love that there I can get my car fixed, my eyes checked, teeth cleaned, go to the dr., have a medical emergency, take visitors for a great tour and to museums, and get my groceries, gas, and other supplies right in Winterset. Good businesses. Attractive town.

I think support to small businesses in our county is vital.

I want to see more businesses relocate to Winterset, or Madison County, so locals can work locally.

I want to see more businesses relocate to Winterset, or Madison County, so locals can work locally.

It forces us to shop for some things elsewhere. Give us more choices LOCALLY.

Lack of good-paying jobs

Making sure that town is for everyone--young single people and young families as well as middle-aged and elderly people. Sometimes Madison County feels like its missing opportunities for young people like myself

Money offer better opportunities to everyone,

More jobs options for our younger generation.

More restaurants and local businesses

Our Chamber is terrific.

quiet - tourism

Restaurants.

Shopping - groceries - want good choices.

Support local businesses.

The Shopper & Madisonian

the small-town businesses

unique attractions (shopping, art, music, food)

We don't have to leave town to get the essentials.

We have a wonderful chamber of commerce,

We value high quality services such as grocery, medical, shopping.

Winterset Gymnastics

Winterset Gymnastics

Winterset gymnastics

Would like one fine dining place. Haven't found it in MC. Patio dining to show off for visitors.

THE SQUARE

great town square.

the community and town square

The small-town charm of the square and the potential of this town really set it apart from other areas.

RECREATION / ENTERTAINMENT / ACTIVITIES

A rec center and change the bridge festival

Activities to meet others, learn something, and stay involved. I am amazed already that this is done a lot.

indoor swim facilities for health.

Bands, all the summer activities,

community based activities such as Covered Bridges Festival, Hinterland, First Fridays, etc.

Continue to draw young families, find more activities for our teens,

Enhanced recreation services for a spectrum of ages

family activities

fishing places

I would also like to see that low-income children are encouraged and enabled to participate in group sports; the fees to join and the uniforms costs keep many youngsters out. What better way to raise up boys and girls to be productive members of our community than to make participating in Band, Softball/Baseball, Soccer, Track, Dance lessons, Piano lessons, Theater, Art -- and many other opportunities are available only to those with A LOT OF MONEY!!

I would like to see a program that "opens kids worlds" for those children whose parents can't afford to enroll them in camps, sports teams, clubs, art classes, dance, etc.

local events

Love that the kids have so many sports activities

Making sure that town is for everyone--young single people and young families as well as middle-aged and elderly people. Sometimes Madison County feels like its missing opportunities for young people like myself

Many activities especially on the weekends. Art facilities and opportunities. Something for everyone.

More community events

Our County Fair and programs for our youth are also important to me.

recreation,

recreational options

The pool

We are very active and travel to DSM a lot to enjoy the outdoors, If we had more things to keep younger families here.

Wine Walks and things put on by the Chamber, military, parades,

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Groups, Churches, Volunteering

all the boards that people are on

Churches are all vital parts of our community, Courthouse & Supervisors

Churches!

churches, a Spirit of Love

Grew up here - have lived in other states, etc. - but have enjoyed being here, getting involved with the community - belong to church, service clubs, getting to know lots of people

I like it here - It was a smart move for us to move here. We are blessed with many good organizations and nearly all the services we need here.

I love where I live. I wish everyone loved it and appreciated it as much as I did. Winterset is a blessing, all blessings need work to preserve and it takes a community to maintain the beauty, attract the business, bring in and retain entertainment, retail and resources that make this town a great place to live.

Involved people & businesses, service organizations, foundations, Legion Hall, VFW Hall and involvement in the community, schools.

Keep our churches, striving for the best for ALL age groups!

Looking for an LGBTQ-friendly church.

That all citizens will step up to serve on School Boards, City Council, County Supervisors and County Offices. Our services are only as good as the people who are willing to serve.

The volunteers and community members are generous with their dollars and time. Keep this up!

The willingness to want to help and improve people's lives. Whether it's improving road conditions, improving low income housing, or offering more community events that help clean up streets, parks, housing and nursing homes.

volunteer opportunities

Volunteer to keep helping the less fortunate

CITY GOVERNMENT

Library, Safety, Services

A safe place for families to be raised and educated.

access to school safety, safe walk for kids to school

Affordability

Affordability

amenities

amenities

I can afford to live here.

when it snows take care of the streets better

Being affordable especially when retired!

Care of roads and city

City of Winterset needs to start cutting down some of the older more dangerous large trees around town. Whenever the City Damages sidewalks in their maintenance activities they should replace the damage asap.

Cleaning up after storms is important & city does a good job.

Community safety

Cost of living

Cut the high cost of water and electric in town.

Definitely street improvements.

Feel safe

Feel safe

Feel safe

Feeling safe

Feeling safe

Feeling safe and secure - having the police, fire, hospital services for emergencies

Good police protection. I think we are doing pretty good on this one.

I am very grateful for our library

I haven't mentioned before our Fire Department & Police Departments are so important.

I just wish the utilities were more affordable.

I think the roads need to be cleaned more and later at night so that the loud beeping will keep people awake

I want a safe and clean neighborhood, county, and world.

I'm paying way too much in taxes that goes to the schools and it should not. Spread the money around. Less raises for city, county officials, make them pay for some of their health care. I do. It will make them have some skin in the game. If we don't do something to turn this town around, it will become even more run down and filled with people who don't work than it already is.

Is good place to live but much more expensive than other communities

It's important that our children are safe,

Keep taxes low and find new ways to create opportunity without increased financial penalization.

Keep taxes reasonable and utilities. Don't raise taxes 1st to fund!! When new projects proposed look to grants/community/interagency collaboration.

Keeping our community a safe place to live for my family and generations to come.

Keeping the property taxes under control. With more people and houses coming this will bring new tax dollars. Also, with more windmills hopefully being built will bring new money also (approximately \$27,000 each) equivalent to a \$1,500,000 house being built.

Law enforcement.

library

Life could be less expensive, gas, utilities, etc.

low cost of living

Low crime

LOWER TAXES

maintenance of streets - spring, summer, winter

Managing growth, fiscal responsibility (property taxes, bonding).

Nice library.

public safety

Public safety

reasonable taxes

roads. We pay insane taxes in town for minimally maintained alleys and streets.

safe

Safe

safe

safe

safe haven

safety

safety

safety

safety

safety

safety

Safety (which I do feel safe living in Winterset.)

Safety and protection of our children

Safety is important to me, and I think we are doing comparatively well on safety.

safety of the area

Safety, Law enforcement is active and always present in the city, and county. I believe it acts as a deterrent.

Safety, we are a very safe town.

Street cleaning in winter is important.

Support our library,

The safety

The safety of my kids and family members.

The safety of our citizens.

The traffic seems to be getting worse around here. People who work in Des Moines could use the Park N Ride. It is becoming a real problem. The 4-way intersection North of town should probably have traffic lights now. Winterset is a commuter town.

We have some serious needs that many are not aware of. Drugs are an issue,

Wish that utilities were a little less expensive. Winterset is very expensive compared to other towns in Iowa

Q6 What else is important to you about where you live?

PLANNING / GROWTH / HOUSING

Affordable housing

Affordable housing.

An approach to future planning that prioritizes a healthy and diverse ecosystem and values the nature around us.

Continue to look for ways to improve our community.

Focus on one project at a time, continue to make an effort to get everyone involved. Efforts like this need talent of all kind, embrace the talent within our community. Seek the talent.

Help attract businesses with tax credits?

I love Winterset. It is a quaint memorable destination community that draws visitors....we need to make it an overnight or multiday stay location....we lack to some degree on resources for that to happen...It. will also help us as Des Moines grows closer to us

It is important to me that our low-income residents are offered job training (locally) and that these persons/families have decent housing. Flipped houses are great but if the rent is too high and the rehab is shoddy, that is not fair to those who cannot afford anything better.

It's a small community where growth is easy to vision.

Keep it small. Don't turn this area into West Des Moines

Keeping the population as is

Keeping the rental prices down low enough for people to live in this town.

Not to make Winterset like Adel - don't want it to sprawl

plan better for housing growth. Take better care of what we already have before adding more...

Planning for the future so decision-making is proactive instead of reactive.

promote growth

Rents are too high

Right now, the square is full. But without planning and making this an attractive area to live, shop, have commerce, we risk becoming a bedroom community with no center.... Norwalk, Waukee, Adel (only about half a square), Pleasant Hill, Indianola is trying to hold on, but now is largely a highway commerce community.

Subdivisions that attract talent from surrounding areas.

that the residents realize we are living in the 21st century

That we have forward thinking people looking ahead to make projections about what the future holds for our county and community.

There needs to be an array of housing available - single family and multi-family housing - rental and ownership options. Too, we are past due to have some kind of housing - again rental or ownership options - for our older citizens. How about co-housing options? Too, there are avenues by which older people can remain in their homes with the help of volunteers/reduced or shared fees for services.

There needs to be more affordable housing.

tolerance of new ideas to share, not just implemented, without community outreach and information provided in all areas of news outlets

Vision and appreciation for what we have, while embracing the changes ahead with open hearts and minds.

We have a great community and county. I would like to see responsible growth in all areas.

We need to make sure we have a walkable community including a city trail and make it so people don't have to drive and can safely walk to do their errands.

We need to move as a progressive community to factor in climate change factors when planning, building, restoring, and attracting commercial partners

We recently moved to rural Madison county from the metro, because we did not want "change". We wanted our views, road, commute, school district, etc. to be more stable. We understand that it is important for small communities to continue to grow, as many towns and counties in our state are not. However, we would like to see purposeful growth without rapid expansion.

CITY LAND USE / APPEARANCE/ PROPERTY

animals, birds - all wildlife - clean water

appearance of town square and flags flying when appropriate

attention to public spaces and respect for the past and the environment

beautiful landscape, proximity to Des Moines

beautiful square

Beauty of city - how people maintain their homes and neighborhoods.

Clean air and

Clean air, clean water

clean and

clean and safe

Clean neighborhood. No litter.

Clean parks

Clean water and clean air.

clean water, respect of environment.

Clean

clean,

Cleanliness.

Clean-up of areas in town that are not well-kept

Efforts such as the protection of Winterset City Park woodland is great!

Environmentally friendly practices.

Excessive noise level - don't want.

Having a clean community. Clean streets, clean neighbors, non-junkie houses. Making sure people are obeying the city ordinances in regards to keeping the community looking nice.

I want a safe and clean neighborhood, county, and world.

keep your property clean and neat

no burning of leaves,

old country cemeteries (we keep them looking good),

Open space

parks

Quality of life as defined by stewardship and respect for the historic value of open spaces

Raise central respect for people's property. Clean up the city! It's filthy!

Saving the environment, less pollution, more energy conservation like solar.

the beauty of the town

usually pretty and neat

Wildlife

HISTORY / ARTS & CULTURE

MUSEUMS, HERITAGE

All the historic places to visit

Heritage preservation

history

history

I am very grateful for our art center and historical complex.

I would have to say the history the fact that we've rebuilt a covered bridge twice shows that we love what we have

I would love to see more emphasis on the arts.

just knowing history and family roots

respect for history

RURAL LIFE / COUNTY ISSUES

Land Preservation, Wind

A sense of connectedness to the land and like-minded people who care about not only where we all choose to live, but how we all treat one another.

lots of farms

better affordable and fast internet service

Better secondary roads

Clean air, clean water, natural views- no windmills, quiet surroundings- rules for planes to stay higher distance above homes

Could we recycle much better in this county?

country

county officials, make them pay for some of their health care. I do. It will make them have some skin in the game.

For me it's all about outdoor recreation and natural beauty. Hats off to a great county conservation board, soil and water conservation district, and other conservation organization in the county.

freedom to explore our countryside - keeping landscape beautiful for all to enjoy

good crops and land

I agree on the blocking of wind turbines. Living here all of my life they are a landscape killer. We keep putting these up in our state to give the data centers cheap power, then they get tax breaks and the eat up prime farm ground in the process.

I cannot think of anything else. We really do love living in Madison County.

I do not want wind towers. Despite clean energy, they are eye-sores and decrease property values. If they continue to develop, I would consider moving, and I am glad to not own a house in the country, and I feel sorry for those who have built dream homes in the country to only now discover that a turbine can be within 1500 yards of their property.

I like living in the country where it is quiet, where my neighbors are my friends and we care about and for each other.

I live in rural Madison County, I love the quiet, clean living. Keeping it beautiful and natural, will preserve the history of it for future generations.

I love living in the country but being close to resources.

I think we should support wind energy in the county. It's best for us all in the long run and we need to stop hindering the future

I want good roads and bridges for safe travel to Winterset and to Des Moines. I want to see more businesses relocate to Winterset, or Madison County, so locals can work locally.

It is important that we continue to work together and not make changes too quickly for our County. We are blessed in many ways!!! Thanks for asking!

It is important to preserve the beauty of our most valuable asset, our beautiful countryside. Madison County is a desirable place to live because it is convenient to Des Moines but yet we haven't trashed our county with corporate junk. Allowing Madison County to become a windmill farm for Mid America would cause us to sell and leave. Protect what makes Madison County unique and desirable

It will be important to develop a plan to stop developments from breaking up farmland in the future. Dallas County had to do this. Part of the county's beauty is the acres of rolling hills that are prairies or farmland.

It's important to us that we maintain the image of John Wayne and the beauty of our landscape. Farm and residential development is natural and beneficial for ALL....industrial wind development is NOT. Let this decision be brought to ALL the residents of this county before allowing the energy companies to get rich off of our ignorance and leave us with monstrous iron eyesores for our next generation to be stuck dealing with.

keep it RURAL

Keeping the property taxes under control. With more people and houses coming this will bring new tax dollars. Also, with more windmills hopefully being built will bring new money also (approximately \$27,000 each) equivalent to a \$1,500,000 house being built.

Know everyone and lots of farms

Less house development in NE corner of the county

Looking to the future, making sure that Polk County/Waukee/West Des Moines doesn't annex us because plans are not being put into effect. In the same breath, taking care of our current people. Farming is important to everyone, you need to care for our farming community. You cannot shut out a farmer who has cows when a developer buys land close, builds homes, & then people complain about the smell or that the roads need paved. They need to know moving here is around a farming community.

More farm conservation practices being used.

more natural agricultural practices

more public land to explore and experience nature

Neighbors help neighbors (at least out here in the country).

nice rural setting

No more wind mills.

Not Wind turbines.

Quality of life as defined by stewardship and respect for the historic value of open spaces. A scattering of windmills is fine, but the concentration of hundreds over several townships is not. The agricultural landscape is overtaken and dominated by an industrial look. Further, the wind industry needs to pay up for future county expenses such as roads.

Remember Madison county has 16 townships, not just those in the northeast. Keeping growth in northeast county in check - if not our new address will be West Des Moines (out vote us).

Rock.

safe roads - especially for commuters and emergency equipment

Safety, Law enforcement is active and always present in the city, and county. I believe it acts as a deterrent.

Sometimes Madison County feels like its missing opportunities for young people like myself

Specifically, in advancing agricultural technologies.

still being rural, and keeping the land for the FARMERS

Supervisors find a way to allow townships to ultimately control what is developed within its boundaries

that we are good farmers

That we have forward thinking people looking ahead to make projections about what the future holds for our county and community. Windmills are not a health hazard. They will help support clean energy. We have to be moving forward with projects that make sense when saving our environment.

The ability as a farmer to handle our farm as we wish. Wind turbines would give us a chance to have a steady and reliable income.

The ability to enjoy life on our farm and having more freedom than if we lived in town.

The country side is beautiful, the wind turbines will be an issue. Would Winterset be willing to put one in the city park and one on the courthouse lawn? then why should rural families have to have them in their backyards?

This county does a good job of highway and rural road maintenance during winter months. That helps us a great deal.

To pass on to future generations the peacefulness, beauty, wildlife and rich land that was passed to us by the past generations. My family goes back a number of generations in Madison County and this is home.

We have a great community and county. I would like to see responsible growth in all areas. We need to take advantage of economic opportunities provided (such as wind turbines) that will reduce overall taxation and improve services. Some in our community cannot seem to see the advantages of providing our residents clean renewable resources such as solar and wind technology. It seems short sighted to me to not embrace these future energy sources which will provide many benefits to our community.

We moved here and moved our business headquarters here because we are close to airports, Des Moines amenities, and centrally located but you can live in scenic rural Iowa. The picturesque rolling hills of the southern part of the county drew us in.

SCHOOLS

Besides a football team

Community support for schools

Continue to push against educational agendas that reflect urban and leftist ideas and values contrary to Iowa, Madison County, and Winterset values.

Disrespectful students that turn into loser adults that don't contribute to our community.

education

Extremely disappointed in the current events associated with the school system in Winterset. We live in a small town where we ought to be able to come to the table in a civilized manner and talk this out to find solutions rather than lashing out in anger. This is not just a Winterset problem, this is happening nationwide.

Good schools.

Great school system

great school system

Homeschool activities that take place during the school day

I was born in Winterset and have lived in the county all my life. The people have supported the (hospital and) schools. And I hope that continues.

Improve the school system so that we don't lose our teachers and students to other communities.

Keep our schools striving for the best for ALL age groups

Love that the kids have so many sports activities, however, the families are suffering when the kids get punished if a family wants to take a vacation or a family weekend. Family should come first.

Maintain a strong school system in Winterset.

our schools are excellent

Quality of schools and teachers for current children and incoming.

School system needs work. 4 suicides this year - bullying - work together

Schools

Schools

Schools that result in people wanting to relocate and live in our community and County.

Schools, the schools are the heart of our community. They are the county's largest employer. We need to support our schools and praise them for their efforts, not just ridicule them.

Strong Schools.

Strong support for schools.

HEALTH CARE / ELDERLY & FAMILY SERVICES

access to affordable health care for everyone

access to health care, transportation, services for the elderly, public health, ambulance

Availability of medical care.

Availability of medical care.

fabulous hospital and clinic,

Forgot to mention the healthcare facilities

Having inclusion for all people with special abilities and for the elderly that is affordable and staffed with qualified individuals which means agencies must pay a wage that will make people want to work here and not drive elsewhere. This inclusion should include NEW housing with close access to businesses, opportunities for continued adult classes and innovative places for them to work in order to have dignity and be a valued citizen in our community.

Health care,

Helping parents parent

Hospital

hospital

I was born in Winterset and have lived in the county all my life. The people have supported the hospital (and schools). And I hope that continues.

Long term care for seniors that is affordable

Support our hospital,

OTHER

God

It's good to be within a day's drive to larger cities such as Des Moines and Omaha for cultural events and medical specialists, etc.

Never bring RAGBRAI to the county again!!!!

the fact that the gender question as shown has to be on this!

We have lived in this community our entire lives along with our descendants. We realize times change but not for the best.

We need a new Mayor. Not one who tries to keep things like another pharmacy (Hy-Vee) out of town to further his son's own business. BTW, Hy-Vee is cheaper.

You are 30 years too late to do anything in Winterset.