

RESOLUTION #81-2012
RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING MODEL PERFORMANCE MEASURES
FOR CITIES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL ON LOCAL RESULTS AND
INNOVATION, CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT
SYSTEM, REPORTING THE RESULTS OF SUCH REPORT TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC,
AUTHORIZING THE SURVEY OF RESIDENTS, AND REPORTING RESULTS TO THE
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation; and

WHEREAS, in February 2011, the Council released a standard set of performance measures for cities that will aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of cities in providing services, and measure resident's opinions of those services; and

WHEREAS, in February 2012, the Council created a comprehensive performance measurement system for cities to implement in 2012; and

WHEREAS, cities that choose to participate in the new standards measure program may be eligible for reimbursement in LGA, and exemption from levy limits; and

WHEREAS, participation in the standard measures program by a city is voluntary; and

WHEREAS, cities that choose to participate in the standard measures program must officially adopt the performance benchmarks developed by the Council, and implement them; and

WHEREAS, the following performance measures were adopted;

- Percent change in the taxable property market value
- Part I and II crime rates
- Police response time
- Insurance industry rating of fire services
- Fire response time
- Average city street pavement condition rating
- Operating cost per 1,000,000 gallons of water pumped/produced
- Number of sanitary sewer back-ups for public sanitary sewer system

WHEREAS, the results of the citizen survey conducted were also released and the following areas were reviewed and commented on;

- Overall appearance
- Overall safety
- Fire protection
- Overall street conditions

- Snowplowing
- Sanitary sewer
- Water supply
- Park and recreation
- Overall quality of service

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, hereby certifies that;

1. The city had adopted and implemented the performance measures as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation; and
2. The city is in the process of implementing a local performance measurement system as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation; and
3. The city will report the results of the adopted measures to its residents before the end of the calendar year through publication, direct mail, posting on its website, or through a public hearing at which the budget and levy will be discussed and public input allowed; and
4. The city will survey its residents by the end of the calendar year on the services included in the performance benchmarks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the actual results of the performance measures adopted by the city for the program in 2011 shall be reported to the Office of the State Auditor by July 1, 2012.

The above and foregoing resolution was offered at a regular meeting of the City Council held on May 7, 2012 by Council Member R Synstelien who moved its adoption, was seconded by Council Member Thacker and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: S Synstelien, Shelstad, Rachels, Fish, Cichosz, Connelly, R Synstelien, Thacker
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None


Whereupon, the above resolution was duly adopted.

ATTEST:

ADOPTED:



City Administrator



Mayor

RESOLUTION #29-2012
PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND 2011 CITY SURVEY APPROVED

WHEREAS, the City of Fergus Falls participated in the Legislature's Council on Local Results and Innovation created in 2010 and,

WHEREAS, the Council released a set of performance measures for cities intended to aid residents, taxpayers, state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of services and to measure resident opinions of these services and,

WHEREAS, for participating the City was reimbursed \$0.14 per capital in local government aid and was exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in 2012 if levy limits are in effect and,

WHEREAS, the following performance measures were completed:

Percent change in the taxable property market value
Part I and II crime rates
Police response time
Insurance industry rating of fire services
Fire response time
Average city street pavement condition rating
Operating cost per 1,000,000 gallons of water pumped/produced
Number of sanitary sewer back-ups for public sanitary sewer system

WHEREAS, the results of the citizen survey conducted in 2011 were also released and the following areas were reviewed and commented on:

Overall Appearance	Overall Safety
Fire Protection	Overall Street Conditions
Snowplowing	Sanitary Sewer
Water Supply	Park and Rec
Overall Quality of Service	

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fergus Falls, Minnesota to accept the performance measures and 2011 citizen rating survey and report.

The above and foregoing resolution was offered at a regular meeting of the City Council held on February 6, 2012 by Council Member S Synsteliën who offered its adoption, was seconded by Council Member Fish and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Rachels, Fish, Cichosz, R Synsteliën, S Synsteliën, Shelstad
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Connelly, Thacker

Whereupon the above resolution was duly adopted.

ATTEST:



City Administrator

ADOPTED:



Mayor

City of Fergus Falls

Performance Measures and Citizens' Ratings 2011



In 2010, the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation. In 2011, the Council released a standard set of performance measures for counties and performance measures for cities that are intended to aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties and cities in providing services, and measure residents' opinions of those services.

A copy of "The Council on Local Results and Innovation 2011 Legislative Report" is attached to the end of this document.

Participation in the standard measures program by a county or city is voluntary. Counties and cities that choose to participate must officially adopt the corresponding performance benchmarks developed by the Council, and implement them in 2011. The Fergus Falls City Council adopted the program by resolution at its' June 20, 2011 meeting. Subsequently, the performance measures were developed and the citizen survey conducted. This document reports the results, which must also be communicated to the public.

A county or city that elects to participate in the standard measures program for 2011 is eligible for a reimbursement of \$0.14 per capita in local government aid and is also exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in 2012, if levy limits are in effect.

The model performance measures utilized by the City of Fergus Falls incorporate a combination of measured outcomes and citizens' ratings (survey), as noted below;

1. Rating of overall quality of services by the city (survey)
2. Percent change in taxable property market value (measured outcome)

3. Rating of overall appearance of the city (survey)
4. Part I and II crime rates (measures outcome)
5. Rating of overall feeling of safety in the city (survey)
6. Police response times (measured outcome)
7. Insurance industry rating of fire services (measured outcome)
8. Rating of overall quality of fire protection services in the city (survey)
9. Fire response time (measured outcome)
10. Average city street pavement condition rating (measured outcome)
11. Rating of overall condition of city streets (survey)
12. Rating of overall quality of snowplowing on city streets (survey)
13. Rating of dependability and overall quality of city water supply (survey)
14. Operating cost per 1,000,000 gallons of water pumped/produced (measured outcome)
15. Rating of dependability and overall quality of city sanitary sewer service (survey)
16. Number of sanitary sewer back-ups for public sanitary sewer system (measured outcome)
17. Rating of overall quality of city recreational programs and facilities (survey)

Within the measured outcomes section, each performance measure is listed along with an explanation of why the measure is important, what the data tells us, and how the information will be used. These eight performance measures will be monitored and the information updated on a regular basis to, as noted previously, aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of providing services in the City of Fergus Falls.

The citizens' rating, or survey, was conducted with the assistance of the League of Minnesota Cities using an online survey tool. Residents were notified through information inserted with their utility bill. A copy of the bill insert and survey is included in this document. A total of 442 responses were received. No determination has been made as to the statistical validity of the survey...it is what it is.

Respondents were asked to rate services as excellent, good, fair or poor. The survey section shows the tabulation of responses to each question, numbers and percentages, as well as comments. Comments were summarized for illustrative purposes, however all comments are included in this document. Ratings and comments will be used to focus on improving service delivery. All City department heads have received copies of this information.

Performance Measures

MEASURED OUTCOMES

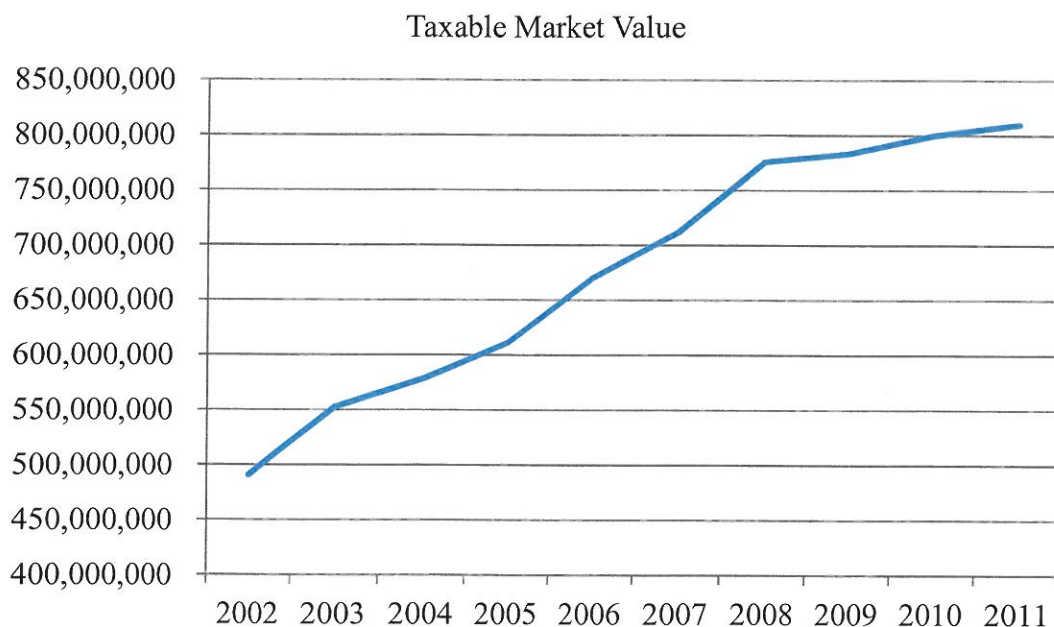
PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Percent change in the taxable property market value

Why is this measure important?

Percent change in the taxable property market value is an indicator of the growth or decline of the tax base of a community. Property taxes are levied against the taxable market value of the community. Because property taxes are the largest source of revenue a city uses to pay for the provision of services, increases in market value can help support the revenue required to provide services and can help to distribute the burden of providing services over a greater number of properties.

What does the data tell us?

Payable Year	Taxable Market Value	Percent Change
2002	490,560,700	5.91%
2003	552,708,100	12.67%
2004	578,260,300	4.62%
2005	611,205,700	5.70%
2006	669,805,200	9.59%
2007	711,801,100	6.27%
2008	775,983,800	9.02%
2009	783,664,000	0.99%
2010	800,074,800	2.09%
2011	809,845,400	1.22%



The data demonstrates the City of Fergus Falls has experienced steady growth in taxable market value over the last 10 years. The growth was more significant from 2002 through 2008 due to commercial and industrial expansion of the west side of the City as well as stronger housing growth in developing areas. The down turn in the economy during 2008 was reflected in a more stagnant growth rate in taxable market value from 2009 through 2011. The City of Fergus Falls is a regional center with a strong base of utilities, education, retail, and healthcare. This base provides on-going security for our taxable market value.

How will this information be used?

This information will help the city plan for service delivery; growth in the city, as reflected in growth in the tax base, generally translates to growth in services required. By monitoring growth trends, we can anticipate affects on taxes and tax increases. This will help make budget decisions, plan for future debt, and maintain moderate tax rates. This information will also help us determine if our economic development efforts are effective.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Part I and II crime rates

Why is this measure important?

Part I crime information reflects the most serious crime categories. Part I and Part II crime rates are indicators of criminal activity and a reflection of community safety. Reducing violent crime makes a safe city even safer for citizens, and puts violent offenders where they belong – in prison.

Part I crimes include murder, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part II crimes include other assaults, forgery/counterfeiting, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons, prostitution, other sex offenses, narcotics, gambling, family/children crime, D.U.I., liquor laws, disorderly conduct, and other offenses. This data is reported to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

What does the data tell us?

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	4	2	4	3	15	7	8	10	7
Robbery	2	0	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	3
Agg. Asslt	19	23	31	21	27	19	23	26	35	19
Burglary	35	77	81	78	84	86	61	64	89	80
Larceny	309	331	332	342	303	381	394	357	430	455
MV Theft	6	9	10	14	20	15	26	24	18	25
Arson	1	5	2	3	2	2	2	5	6	0
Part I Total	374	449	459	465	442	520	515	484	588	589

	2009	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Assaults	171	155	168	190	172	202	141	137	147	193
Forgery	8	19	36	36	41	59	31	44	31	56
Fraud	52	101	78	68	60	52	63	121	563	739
Embzzlmnt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Prop	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	5	5	3
Vandalism	226	204	186	214	264	209	210	210	236	281
Weapons	6	15	19	7	7	12	8	10	5	8
Prost'n	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offen	20	21	22	17	21	11	27	30	26	21
Narcotics	38	54	62	69	53	129	82	58	94	46
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Family/child	178	239	248	240	182	234	194	112	77	113
DUI	42	60	82	112	125	88	85	104	90	100
Liquor Vio	43	50	42	58	53	53	39	52	50	76
Disorderly	197	196	183	195	190	159	142	161	127	148
Other	146	121	129	151	139	130	167	175	149	153
Part 2 Total	1,127	1,240	1,256	1,357	1,308	1,341	1,193	1,219	1,603	1,937
Total	1,501	1,689	1,715	1,822	1,750	1,861	1,708	1,703	2,191	2,526
Clearance	73%	74%	76%	73%	69%	68%	65%	66%	61%	60%

Part I and II crimes show us annual trends in specific areas of criminal activity. By analyzing this information, it allows the police department to focus manpower and resources to a specific problem area. A good example would be the insurgence of drug within the community during a period from 2002 to 2005. When looking at the statistical information you can see that arrest for drug offenses climbed to as high as three times the normal average. Our agency was able to redirect staff and resources to combat the problem. As a result, we continue to see notable reductions in narcotic arrests, returning to near normal figures.

Another key component of analyzing Part I and II crimes is clearance rates. Clearance rates are a measure of how successful the organization is in solving all crimes that are reported. In looking at the past 10 years of crime statistics, there is a clear upward trend in improvement when it comes to clearance rates. In the early part of the decade, our agency maintained clearance rates in the low 60th percentile. A continual upward trend can be seen over this 10 year period to include clearance rates in the mid 70th percentile for the past four years.

The issues of crime analysis and clearance rates reflect back on the community and the department in two specific ways. First, the community has a sense of safety and confidence by that fact that if crime is an issue within the community that is going to be identified by the police and addressed with an immediate and pro-active approach. Secondly, if a community member does have to report a crime to the police there is a high probability that the incident will be successfully solved by the police, in turn creating a high level of trust within the department that carries over to the community members sense of safety. The same is true for these measures as a

tool show success within the department. Issues within the community are being identified by the department and that the department has continued to see high levels of success when dealing with crime.

How will this information be used?

The Fergus Falls Police Department will continue to use up-to-date crime data to target the assignments of police officers and other law enforcement and community resources according to the greatest need. Investigative units will continue to look at these rates and examine their procedures to see if and where changes could be made that would reduce crime rates.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Police response time

Why is this measure important? Police response time is the time it takes on top priority calls from dispatch to the first officer on the scene. Emergency situations need quick responses to increase the chances of successful outcomes. Appropriate officer staffing levels are necessary to maintain good response times.

What does the data tell us?

Total Calls For Services		
Year	Total Calls	
2010	10,472	
2009	10,850	
2008	11,485	
2007	10,674	Average Response Times
2006	9,016	Priority Calls: 2 Minutes
2005	9,482	Non Priority: 8 Minutes
2004	9,052	
2003	9,201	
2002	9,427	
2001	9,607	
2000	9,329	

Response time is crucial measurement in two distinct areas of police service: the preservation of life and safety and the successful apprehension of criminals. Our response times are broken down into two categories, priority calls and routine calls. Priority calls would include calls where the health and welfare of community members are at risk. They may include medicals, auto accidents, domestic assaults, and robberies. The quicker officers can respond to these calls the better the chance of having a positive intervention to preserve or protect life. In cases of accidents and medicals, officers can quickly start emergency medical treatment, bettering the community member’s chance of survival. In cases of crime, officers can quickly intervene during violent encounters offering protection for victims from criminal perpetrators.

How will this information be used?

In addition to emergency calls, quick response to other routine calls provides officers with a higher probability of solving a crime the more quickly they can respond to an incident and recover evidence or talk to witnesses who may still be in the area. Quick response to calls along with a team oriented philosophy on solving crime has allowed our department to see dramatic improvements in our clearance rates. This approach to crime response also instills a sense of safety within the community by its members.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Insurance industry rating of fire services

Why is this measure important?

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) issues ratings to fire departments throughout the country for the effectiveness of their fire protection services and equipment to protect their community. The ISO rating is a numerical grading system and is one of the primary elements used by the insurance industry to develop premium rates for residential and commercial businesses.

ISO analyzes data using Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) and then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection and Class 10 indicated that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

What does the data tell us?

The Fergus Falls Fire Department is a Class 4 department. *Class 1 is the highest and Class 10 is no fire protection available.* On September 1, 1992 the department improved from a Class 5 to Class 4. Every 10 years the ISO conducts an evaluation of the department. Cities can request a rating evaluation at anytime. We should be due for an evaluation in 2012.

How will this information be used?

Can we get a better rating? Our last rating evaluation we were close to moving up to a Class 3 rating. With improvements to our training program and maintenance to the water system (fire hydrants) we are hopeful to be able to reach the Class 3 rating this next time. We will work towards keeping our current rating by maintaining adequate response times, maintaining adequate manpower levels for emergency calls, continued training and maintaining equipment performance levels.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Fire response time

Why is this measure important?

Fire response time is the average time it takes from dispatch (page) to having the first truck on the scene. Emergency situations need quick responses to increase the chances of successful outcomes. Minutes can save lives and property.

In Fergus Falls, the river divides the city into districts by north and south. Mill Street divides the districts again by east and west, thereby creating four districts. A fifth district is the north western portion of district 2, which is divided by College Way and Weyren’s Road.

What does the data tell us?

For the combined years of 209 and 2010

<u>District</u>	<u>Average time in min:sec*</u>
C1	8:33
C2	7:19
C3	6:49
C4	7:52
C5	6:51

The average response time for all calls, combined, is 7:28 (min:sec). The goal of the National Fire Protection Association is to achieve a response time of less than 10 minutes.

*Response times were calculated using only emergency incidents involving fires, overpressure, rescues and hazardous conditions.

How will this information be used?

By monitoring the average yearly response times, we will be able to tell if it is taking longer to arrive on scene and start performing emergency services. If the response time increases, we can look at finding solutions to lower our response times.

Staffing decisions – If response times increase, we can look at the availability of the current POC (paid on call firefighters) and increase the number of POC firefighters to improve response times. If hiring more POC firefighters is not feasible, we would have to look at the hiring of more full time firefighters.

Equipment decisions – If response times increase, we can look at our current equipment to see if there are ways to improve. This could include our paging equipment, turnout gear, fire station building layout, and the trucks. We would look at what is hindering the firefighters from arriving in a timely manner.

Budgeting - Additions of firefighters and equipment will impact budgets.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Average city street pavement condition rating

Why is this measure important?

The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is a numerical index between 0 and 100, with 100 representing an excellent pavement, and is used to indicate the condition of a roadway. It is widely used in transportation civil engineering. This condition index can give a good indication of the pavement condition of a city.

What does the data tell us?

As of 2009 the PCI is 79. Staff is in the process of imputing improvement projects to provide a 2011 year-end PCI.

How will this information be used?

The goal of the city pavement management program is to keep the overall network of streets in a serviceable condition and optimize the financial resources available in a cost effective manner. The city attempts to maintain a PCI of at least 70. (Streets with a PCI rating of less than 70 have increasingly rough rides and a growing number of potholes, along with other problems.) Knowing an individual street PCI helps the city to direct dollars were needed and where most effective. The PCI is only one element when reviewing improvements within the public way. The age and condition of underground infrastructure is also reviewed to determine the scope and extent of improvement projects.

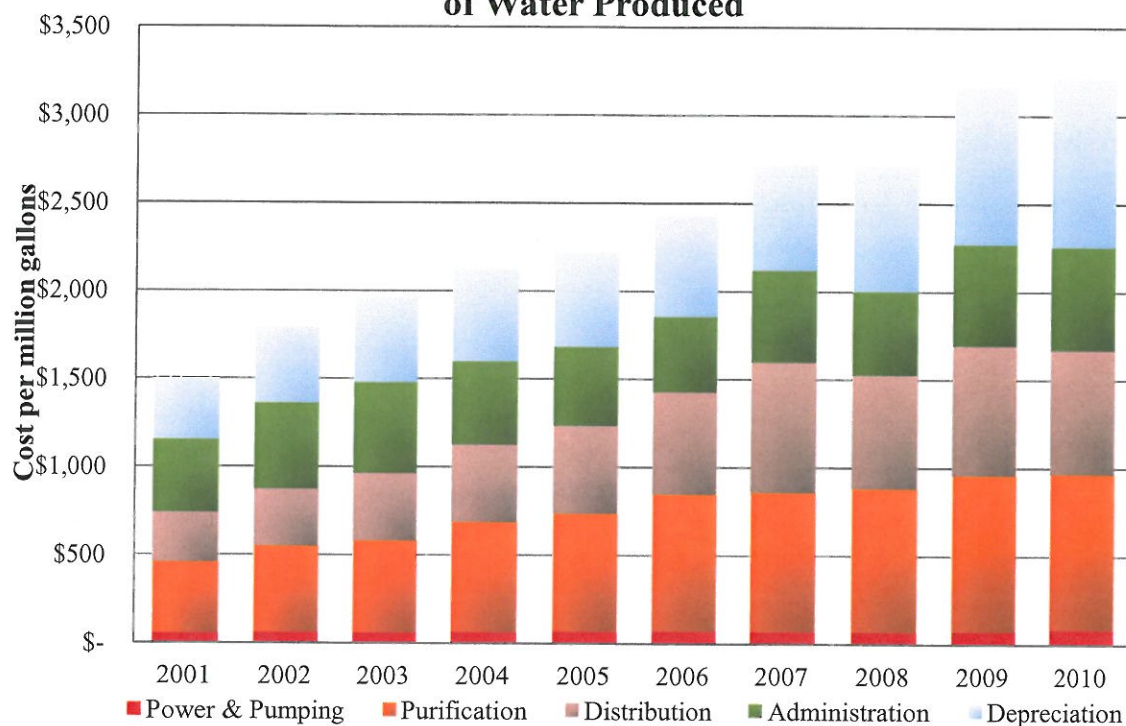
PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Operating cost per 1,000,000 gallons of water pumped/produced

Why is this measure important?

Because water utility revenue must cover operating costs, it is very important to track these costs to ensure that we operate as efficiently as possible. Treatment and pumping costs is an indicator of the unit cost of water production. Some costs, such as chemical and energy are dependent upon the volume of water produced. Other costs, such as employees' salary and fringe benefits are not (however, still included in total cost of operation).

What does the data tell us?

Total Operating Costs per Million Gallons of Water Produced



This graph indicates that while our operation cost have generally been maintained the amount of water produced has decreased. Therefore the cost to produce a million gallons of water has increased. The cost to produce the water has not decreased with reduced production because of regulation requirements and operations procedures.

How will this information be used?

It is important to track and project costs accurately so that the utility will stay within its budget. The city monitors such cost components as power and pumping, purification, distribution, administration, and depreciation, and targets such areas to reduce cost and optimize performance. Revenues are also monitored as necessary. Constant review of operation procedures and upkeep on plant improvements can assist to reduce the operating costs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Number of sanitary sewer back-ups for public sanitary sewer system.

Why is this measure important?

The prevention of sanitary sewer backups in the public sanitary sewer system is a primary health and human services issue in providing a clean and livable city. Public sewer lines that cause backups onto private property have a financial liability potential to the city for reimbursing property owners for resulting damages.

What does the data tell us?

Number of Sanitary Sewer Back-up

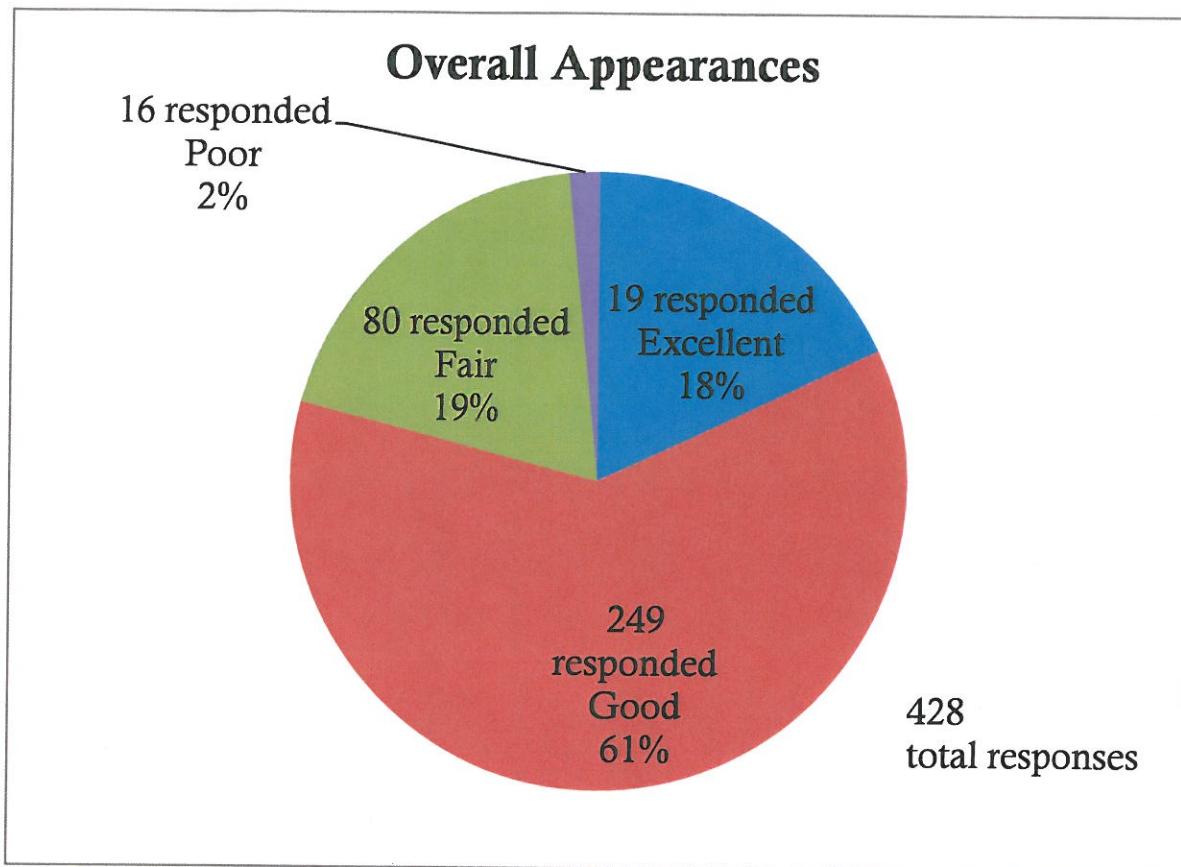
Year	Number of Sewer Back-up Mainline Claims Paid	Number of Claims paid related to Lift Stations	Total Paid Claims
2004	0	1	1
2005	3	2	5
2006	1	0	1
2007	2	0	2
2008	2	1	3
2009	1	0	1
2010	0	0	0

The low amount of public sanitary sewer back-ups indicated that the city is proactive in its preventative maintenance and capital improvement program.

How will this information be used?

This measure can be used as an indicator of how well the city is managing its sewer system operation, maintenance and support services. Important components include managing and regulating what is being discharged into the system and regular cleaning of the sanitary sewer. By managing the sanitary sewer system problem areas can be identified and public education regarding acceptable material and preventative maintenance can be preformed.

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

- Beautiful city
- Love the trees
- Most residents take care of their property

Good Comments Were Generally About:

- Many places need to clean up the junk in their yards
- Desire to see area along river, especially mill and dairy re-developed
- Street conditions need to be addressed

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

- Keep up with flower beds and weed control
- Clean up junk in the yards
- Too many empty buildings

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

- Empty buildings detract from attractiveness of the city
- Areas around town that need to be cleaned up

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall appearance of the city?

Excellent

we think it is beautiful

We moved here 31 years ago because we liked the city

There are some areas that could be better, but overall I would need to say excellent. Areas that are poor are the ones along the river off of Stanton Avenue.

The trees in the summer are awesome, and I think most people keep their lots/places looking great.

The City is Very pretty

People seem to take pride in our city appearance, and public employees appear to work hard to make Fergus attractive.

People seem to have more pride in maintaining their homes and yards. City encourages civic pride.

No matter what season of the year the drive down Lincoln Ave. is so beautiful

Love the trees!

Love the trees

Love all the trees

Lots of green space and well maintained

Like most of my friends, I think it's beautiful

It has always been an attractive city, and visitors comment on that.

I think you do an excellent job of providing many wonderful services to the citizens...

I am very impressed at how many people get involved with the many organizations and non-profits.

great parks

Few cities can measure up to Fergus Falls during the summer & fall seasons.

Fergus is beautiful.

Fergus Falls is one of the nicest, smaller cities in Minnesota - appearance-wise that I know of. Northfield is possibly the best but that is due primarily to the number of local businesses that exist (and are due to) based on the college populations in that city (St. Olaf/Carleton). Appearance-wise, FF is just as nice.

compared to some others

cleanliness is very good and trees are outstanding

Clean and neat has been characteristic of the way residents have cared for their properties. Appearance has been important to the City so funds are allocated to hire good help who takes good care of parks, roads, trees and appearances in general.

Beautiful well kept city

Beautiful city with lots of trees; many, many "friendly" people; the city is kept very clean including the streets (although many of the streets are in need of repair); Many churches and parks. People seem to take pride in Fergus.

All our out-of-town visitors can't get over how well the residents of the city maintain their properties and businesses. Even our "slum" areas look good compared to some moderate class neighborhoods in similar cities.

A very beautiful community

Fair

Your lakes are in very bad shape. Your roads are in real bad shape. But you had to have a hockey arena.

You could take an idea from towns of this size, and keep the old face on all downtown buildings. You could make the city interesting by inviting antique dealers for lower overhead to sell their goods in buildings unoccupied. The many towns I have visited with the gone-by era brings in many visitors a year and is well advertised.

why are some entrances to the city marred by derelict structures? example: the house on the 210 bypass across from fairgrounds with torn tyvek, no siding, etc.

Weeds in sidewalks downtown.

Weeds growing in curbs/gutters; many, many dandelions in Res. & Bus. areas in Spring/Summer; overflowing garbage containers; garbage containers placed in street for pick-up; corners of intersections not painted yellow & not consistently same distances; too many streets in poor condition.

We have complained to the city about yard @ ### W. Linden (next door) for 6+ yrs. NO IMPROVEMENT. This also applies to other areas around town. How about enforcing regulations controlling these problems.

Very dissapointed in the lack of care of Lake Alice

Too much junk around some homes need to clean up!

Too many homes or buildings that are abandoned or in poor repair

too many geese

there are so many houses that need help appearance wise some peoples lawns need mowing some of the roads are bad in town Alcott is bad you can't hardly ride a bike on that road

The Old Mill Eyesoar...

The Old Mid Am Dairy Eyesoar...

the old mill downtown should be torn down and replaced with a bandshell area --- also the end of the building where the lady got killed by falling bricks should be painted.mural-ed or re-bricked

The old mill and Regional TC look like crap.

the neighborhoods that have run down houses and yards looks should be addressed and the flour mill looks dumpy.

The Goose poop all over does not help this town.

The Downtown sidewalks need to be cleaned more often. I see lots of trash. Fergus Falls is full of Buckthorn, including a big tree on City Hall grounds! This plant is on the MN noxious weed list. Other cities have eradication programs for it. Why don't we?

the city reacts to complaints and does not do their job as objectively as they should..lots of favoritism

the city could use more flowers in the summer

Tends to be not very inviting for visitors coming in on major roadways.

Tear down the Old Flour Mill and that will help clean up the city

Streets terrible in need of repair. Intersection Union/Vernon needs better traffic control. 4 way stop, stop lights, etc. Crappy intersection coming certain directions.

Streets need work, street cleaning ok, better weed control

Streets are poverty stricken, and reflect a negative impact on one's impression of the inner structure of the city! Some of the infrastructure has not been kept up since the 1930's or so, but we can seem to spend millions of dollars on fun & games, including the ICE ARENA! What type of thinking is this? The city wastes too much money mowing large areas of grass that does NOT need to be mowed. Huge expense as we keep paying higher and higher taxes. You need to look into this all the parks and areas surrounding the parks, drive ways into. Huge expense. This is overspent and wasteful and no one seems to care!!!

Some streets are very poor at times there is garbage on the main areas.

Some flower beds are not kept up...weeds growing in sidewalk cracks is pet peeve of mine...

so many new buildings and construction and then you see all the empty buildings why not fill those instead of building

so many homes in poor condition

Seems to be a lack of vision, direction, leadership. City growth being stagnant over the last 10 years is an indicator,.

roads and city wide cleanup need to be addressed

Roads are very poor downtown lacks

roads are bad and lacking the summer flower beds and hanging baskets and/banners that make the city more welcoming and friendly

quite a few buildings empty (for sale/rent)

Poor use of existing buildings: instead, new shed/pole barn buildings are set up in peripheral empty lots. The Mill structure needs to either come down or be maintained! What an eyesore to those both visiting town and permanent residents.

No downtown shopping only service providers.

Need to repair all streets especially Vernon and Lincoln as they are the two streets visitors use and see first ..need to be resurfaced..potholes are not a good first impression

Need to have more for the youth and young adults for jobs, recreation, etc.

Need to do something with the old four mill

More jobs need to come to town!!!

miss the flowers

Many houses and apartment buildings are in dire need of repair and upkeep. They make the city look trashy.

Lots of Abandoned house Don't like the tree on my yard planted by the city Messy and the last ones to drop the leaves- the city pick up has

Its not as clean as when it was when we first moved here.

It's lovely how everything seems to be mowed at the same time in town. But it sure could use some color. Like flowers. I've noticed that the planters downtown are planted with whatever in them. It would be much more cohesive and pleasing if they were planted using the same plants. And it would be nice if there were more flowers in general around town and on the main streets.

It was attractive, but is becoming a commercial wasteland and rental property zone. Only the poor are going to live in a city unconcerned with those who live here.

It looks like there is no zoning. Commercial metal buildings mixed with houses, car repair shops everywhere, andd junk in half the yards.

It is a city being changed from an attractive place to live, to a typical suburban car oriented city for those who live elsewhere.

Instead of tax breaks for big box stores promising min. wage jobs, do something better to get the downtown something better than low rent apts.

I used to believe we were excellent but we have lost ground. The parks aren't as cared for, the spots in parking lots where flowers used to grow are a shambles, and Lincoln Avenue trees should be replaced like on other streets.

Horrible roads, otherwise clean

homes are beginning to look trashy. Downtown looks nice. The mall sucks.

getting worse...infrastructure and roads crumbling and breaking up

Bad Streets

areas like the old mill & dairy, plus many empty buildings downtown take from the overall appearance. Also neighbors that don't care for their property & don't care that their yards are stocked with old cars, trailers etc.

Alot of the back streets could use some fixing up especially the Stanton street.

Good

would like to see more flower beds restored

Would like to see CoAg Mill be torn down. Very much an eye sore.

Will be better when we start with the public art. Need welcoming banners/signs :) downtown and at entrances to our community.

We should try to preserve trees.

We have trees and it is clean

visitors comment on tidy yards and good trees

too many streets torn up at the same time then takes forever to get them dome.

too many rummage signs and junk put out on curbs for free and left too long

There should be more regulations on some home owners/land lords to clean up their properties (garbage, junk, old cars/campers etc. in their yards, driveways, & on the street).

There is always room for improvement. The ongoing construction and upgrading of buildings, etc. shows a city that cares how it looks.

There are too many properties that are not cared for properly...either lazy landlords, poor renters, etc. who do not take pride in their property. Too much junk in the yards, not mowed, couches on porches, etc.

There are some landlords, homeowners or rental properties that are not kept up...picked up...mowed, etc.

There are several houses that need to be cleaned up on N. Cleveland and other places throughout the city.

There are numerous streets in town that are badly in need of repair. This problem lessens the appearance of the city and leaves both residents and visitors to ask why the streets are not being properly maintained.

The southern part of Union Avenue looks awful. The streets are falling apart more than any other part of town that has been re-done in recent years (with the exception of Lake Alice - Union and Lake Alice were equally bad).

The school grounds need to be taken care of better during the summer, keeping the weeds out and grass areas nicely mowed.

the old mill on stanton is such an eye sore

The old mill by Service Food is an eyesore.

The old flour mill is an eyesore for the downtown area.

The old flour mill is an eye sore.

the lakes in town would look much better with the edges mowed. Birds can fly and vegetation along the waters edge does not deture them from coming aground

The city of trees - so beautiful. However there is alot of local junk sitting around, ie neighborhood yards

The city needs to get after some of the residents that have junk laying around, junk cars not being driven, people not mowing their lawn, etc.

The city itself is beautiful. There are some areas on the outlying parts that appear to collect junk.

The city is better than most in appearance

The appearance could be improved by restoring derelict buildings like the old mill and NP depot.

Thank goodness for our dedication to forestry. The tree lined streets are a huge beautifier of the city. I'd love to see every street, road, and highway in the city lined with trees.

tear down the elavator on the corner of union and stanton. eye sore.

surface of many streets rapidly degrading

Stricter laws on property up keep it degrades the value of mine if not kept up in the neighborhood

Streets still in need of some repair or replacement - would like to see more flowers but realize costs involved.

Streets need some work

Something needs to be done of the number of burn't out street lights in just the downtown area were I live.

Some yards are getting bad and some houses need fixing,painting,

Some Streets Could Use Some Work

Some of the streets are in disrepair

Some houses need torn down, and many streets are in need of repair, which adversely affects the city's appearance.

Some downtown alleys could use more frequent trash or recycling pickups, or more trash bins. There are no recycling containers downtown for businesses or apartment tenants.

some areas are in need of fixing up in parts of the city

Seems as though more homes appear in ill repair than years ago

Roads need repair. Love the flowers and seasonal decorations!!

Potholes; streets in poor repair.

please do a better design on the police building. the hockey building looks like a machine shed.

plant more flowers--- keep the curbs painted yellow

Parks are well kept

Overall good. Would be nice to have the old flour mill removed and other abandoned industrial properties along the north shore of river.

Overall for the city "Good"- but downtown "Fair". There are weeds growing in the cracks downtown, and litter in the unused entrances to stairs that I sometimes end up picking up when I walk by. Curbs deteriorating, and unplanted flower beds full of weeds.

Out of town guests have favorable impressions. Many uncared for yards/houses in town. need more stringent ordinances against blight. Obligation lies with elected officials- not neighbors making complaints and alientating each other.

Our city used to have a lot more beautiful flowers in past years.

Our city is very well cared for visually,

old mill-----BIG EYE SORE!

old mill eye sore

Old mill and dairy buildings a blight in area which could be a major positive. Attraction needs more flowers and more early summer weeding.

Need to keep up with replacing removed trees

Need to develop river areas.

Natural environment is great. Downtown and Lake Alice are eyesores.

My only issue here is that I'd like to see the city implement some commercial design standards, both in the downtown area and on the west end. We don't need more steel sheds in town - thankfully most folks dress them up a bit, but it would make our community much more attractive if we had some design standards in place.

Most visitors comment Fergus Falls is clean and properties are well kept

Most residents & businesses take pride in their property. It shows.

Most people take care of their property

Most of our city looks very well maintained.

Mill is unsightly. Much more could be done to improve that whole river corridor.

Many trees, parks the lakes in the city

many streets in poor condition

Many downtown store fronts need quality updating. So many have been remuddled. Access to FF from I-94 on hwy 59 needs to be more attractive. Beautiful stone fence at golf course should be fixed!

Main street appears to be not very active

Love the trees and main roads look great, downtown looks somewhat deserted and the old mill is an eye sore

Looks nice with exception of Lake Alice drained.

kept up as well as possible. We feel it would be good to see the old elevator gone and something good done to that area

It's a nice place. I'm concerned that half of the city streets in the northwest corner of town are in a bad state of repair.

It would be nice if we didn't have so many metal buildings. Clean city with nice trees.

It is mostly clean. Most houses are well kept and painted, however there are areas and homes that need attention. My wife always thought that Fergus was very well kept years ago, but people are neglecting their yards and their homes. It is very disappointing.

It depends on the area. There are parts that are quite nice and others that you can tell are neglected as they are off the beaten path.

Initial view of Fergus Falls APPEARS good but the town has many issues.

In spite of all the negative comments that can be made, we do have an excellent city we can be proud of.

If we're talking about the "appearance of the city", something needs to be done with the old, broken-down mill at the corner of Union and Stanton. In fact, that whole area along the river bank, travelling west, should be developed into something we can all be proud of.

I would be nice if the weeds growing out of the cracks in the sidewalks and along the streets were sprayed or burned off.

I think we need to educate/help city residents who have difficulty keeping debris out of their yard -- I think a yearly or bi-yearly curb trash pickup would go a long way to that cleanup.

I really miss the flowers in the gardens. I think the city was much more attractive with them.

I miss the flowers we used to have in many more areas. I don't care for the extra 'wild' plant growth around the shores of Lake Alice. I like a more 'groomed' appearance.

I miss the flowers in the summer. They brightened everything up. I also dislike people putting out trash on the curbs hoping it will get picked up -- very trashy.

I miss having more flowers in the city parks and parking lots. I do appreciate the work to keep and maintain trees.

I love this town. Always have. I only wish that we could do something about the Westridge Mall. It is suffering and it seems as though we could do something about it. Get more stores in it and it would help our economy tremendously!

I love the lakes area. I also have a lake cabin in Battle Lake, MN.

i like living here because of my girlfriend Nancy Nordick

I feel some of the older neighborhoods have too much stuff in their yards as vehicles. On Cleveland close to Fir Ave is a small house that looks terrible with mega stuff in front of the house and their steps.

I especially appreciate the trees! I wish the streets were in much better condition. They affect the overall appearance.

I don't like the sales of used lawnmowers, etc, continuously on the boulevard and front lawns. They should comply with the same rules that apply for garage sales, limited to the same number of times per year.

garbage cans mar the street views

Fergus is a beautiful city, but some run-down houses can detract from the beauty.

except for the privately owned old mill bldg. on Stanton. really an eyesore.

Even though we lost many trees, the city has done a good job of replacement.

East end (210) cluttered and unattractive compared with other "entrances." Would advise against proliferation of "black signs." Generally attractive appearance.

Downtown streets are NOT well picked up.

Downtown planters look nice in the summer, but scraggly yards and trash along the boulevard labeled "free" is an eyesore.

Downtown could use something unique, to give it a more tourist type appeal.

Condition of streets is poor.

Civic Pride Week...Help Beautify Your City! Would a one-week promotion work, get service clubs to take on some projects...I can see an army of people with blowers cleaning the downtown!

City leaders appear to care less and less about the city's aesthetics. This is especially unfortunate, because, historically, the city's beauty has been a unique selling point. Specifically, design and development decisions in the last 20 years have seemed progressively haphazard, unplanned and without regard to how the city appears to visitors. I scored this question as high as I did because of what previous generations blessed us with in Fergus Falls.

Beautiful trees. Industrial area behind Fleet Farm needs updating.

Beautiful scenic areas, but city streets are not the best.

Basically good but there are some high traffic areas such as mill, old dairy, and other under developed river areas as well as the RTC that need to be renovated (except dairy).

Aren't we falling behind in tree planting? There are several varieties of disease resistant elms that we could start planting, like Princeton, Cathedral, Accolade. I would love to see us start using these fabulous trees again. And maybe mix in more hackberry trees instead of so many maples and linden.

appreciate boulevard trees and replacements

Along boulevards, curbs, sidewalks, etc., there are too many weeds that are not killed or removed. That looks tacky for a beautiful City of F.F. Also too many dilapidated yards in the city. There needs to be a stronger and stiffer city code.

a few yards have junky cars ect.....but overall it is well kept.

Poor

Very little done to beautify the city. The pots on Lincoln are thrown together, not uniform. No plantings in park across from Holiday (could this be a project for the garden club?). Ordinances about storing junk in your yard and not planting on the boulevard, etc are ignored. The back of the building on the corner of Union and LIncoln toward Service Food parking lot reminds me of a slum. This is what visitors see when coming downtown.

Too much stuff in front yards of homes Shabby mill in prime location downtown Empty shops all over town, store fronts a jumble of designs, nothing looks planned.

too many "dumpie looking areas"

not like the way it use to be ,no more flowers in the city more people with junk in yards. drove around today and was disappointed at the look. no one seems to care what other properties look like and junk just piles up in yards, where is the city to renforce it no where cause you have pay for hockey arena. drove by the old high school today soo miss the look of roosevelt highscool DO U REALLY CARE?

Many potentially viable commercial buildings are FOR SALE and have minimum upkeep done. Many of the owners of these buildings are non-resident real estate speculators. The city needs to encourage these owners, through aggressive ordinance enforcement to, either maintain their properties or sell them at realistic levels in relation to the economy.

Make better choices please....

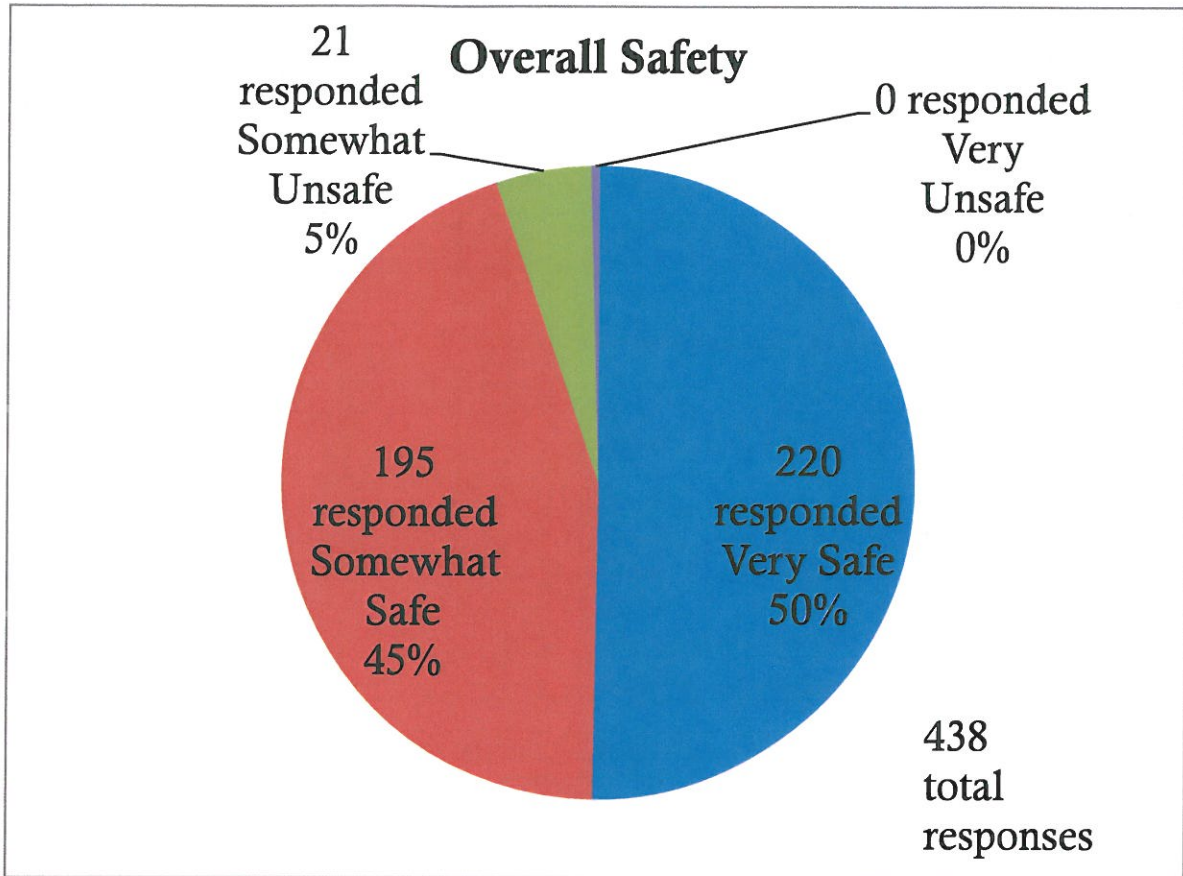
Its so old, we have such potential and no one is willing to put up the risk. We could be a Wisconsin Dells, valleyfair, japons indoor water beach, theres so many things that would bring money to our city but our older population always says no. Im 35 and am sick of our teens dying one after another because we offer them no alternative to going to someones house and drinking. those 4 girls in that accident on 10/9 love to dance why dont we have an under 18 area for them to do that? This town is going to end up like two harbors mn it was so beautiful but it cant hold a population anymore because they never stayed with the time now they are fighting with taxes and expenses it cant afford because no one want to live there anymore

Don't Know

Need to improve our streets

lines on the street would help. Also some parts of the City look a lot like slums. Fergus Falls is a very pretty town but nobody knows we are here. Where are the signs along the interstate advertising Fergus Falls, not including the signs some local businesses have put up.

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Very Safe Comments Were Generally About:

Frequent patrols make people aware of the police presence
Fergus Falls is a safe place to raise a family
The department has a quick response time

Somewhat Safe Comments Were Generally About:

Concerns with increased perception in crime
Police needing to respond to more calls at rental properties

Somewhat Unsafe Comments Were Generally About:

Need to be more pedestrian friendly
Concerns with going out after dark

Somewhat Unsafe Comments Were Generally About:

Tenants in rental housing are causing many problems
Behavior and activity in Athletic Park is concerning

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you describe your overall feeling of safety in the city?

Very Safe

We feel the police dept. does a wonderful job in the city.

We could use more street lights in the residential areas; as some neighborhoods are very dark at night.

Very safe city - traffic-wise: there needs to be traffic lights installed at the NE intersection behind Fleet Farm - the current 4 way stop is inadequate in my opinion - a traffic light would help prevent what I am sure will be a fatality someday. Also, the stop light at Broadway and Lincoln Avenue needs a left turn green arrow for making left hand turns onto Broadway (when traveling from W to E).

Too safe -- too many police and too many police cars.

There have been recent crimes that are alarming (Holiday robbery Service Food mugging) but the cops usually catch the culprits...there have been more thefts and "prank-type" which are important to get a handle on...

There are areas that are bad near the down town. But we really need to get the police department a decent building and money for training and equipment. I think we need to invest in the essential services (Fire and Police) first before we tax for a hockey rink (but that is history).

the police need to worry more about real crime and leave the skateboarders alone

The police are very visible, which is very important.

The frequency with which we see Police cars patrolling our city streets is a good deterrent to crime, I believe.

The county sheriff has done an excellent job of getting rid of many of the drug dealers and users in and around Fergus Falls. This change happened after our sheriff was elected and has been very apparent in and around the area of Fergus Falls that I work and live in. I am not convinced this would have happened without our county sheriff. My experience with the city police department leads me to believe that they think that thier job is to fill out the paperwork for the insurance companies. We have some good guys on the police dept. but they are not under effective leadership. It has been my experience that the officers are instructed not to follow through on theft of service charges, bad check offenses and and other financial crimes even when they are felony level crimes.

The biggest issue we have personally is with minor thefts and vandalism. I've never felt concerned for my personal safety though.

Thankful for our police force. I think they do a terrific job in the city.

Raised 2 children in Fergus and never worried about their safety or mine.

quick responses

Poor choices, I feel safe, not necessarily very safe, nor just somewhat safe.

Police seem to be doing excellent job.

police do a great job here.

Plenty of police cars driving around. It gives a feeling of safety.

patrols should focus on neighborhoods and running violations rather than 30+ mph on same/same/same streets

One needs to use common sense about where you are.

Old people, police, geese.

Not just as a citizen living here, but in my line of work I have worked with officers, and have nothing but respect for them and how they do their job.

No problems during the day, in the evenings/night there are some groups of young adults roaming about.

me & Nancy can go for walks & feel safe here

Like too much security!!!

Let's go ahead and build the new cop shop.

Job well done

I've had little personal experience with safety issues. The exposure I have had to our police department has left me impressed with their professionalism.

Its a joy to live where citizens and law enforcement work together to have a safe city.

In the last few years I have felt less safe.

I think we have excellent law enforcement.

I think the police dept. does an excellent job!

I sometimes Think We Have to many Patrol Cars Cruising Around Our City. Cost Wise.

I personally feel very safe, but I know there are many who don't

I know that crime and drugs exist, but I have always felt safe in and around my home.

I have not had any trouble going for walks by myself. However, I consider safety as well as I usually walk alone. I am aware of surroundings and don't very often walk at night.

I feel very safe in Fergus and think it is a great place to raise a family, as for safety.

I feel the police do a good job. I esp like it when they take out the meth dealers. Meth will make any town very unsafe to live in.

I do a lot of walking, and sometimes at night, and I've never felt threatened.

Have never experienced any type of criminal activity in the neighborhoods we've lived in (south or north sides).

Excellent police department, has always been so. Public safety is the responsibility of every citizen and resident as well.

Excellent dedicated police department

Although my car has been robbed 2-3 times in front of my house since living here....it was always part of a series....

Although I checked very safe. I do think the police service should do more about cracking down on illegal drug users and the loud cars and trucks late at night around the new high school parking lot.

Somewhat Safe

You need to keep your eyes open and just be aware of your surroundings.

Working downtown 'til late at night I'm noticing a lot more young males out and about. It seems that there must be more activity in upstairs apartments downtown.

When I first moved here, people talked about how safe the community was, but the news and police reports belie that some.

We have a lot of unsavory folks in the city that can make life hurtful for others. Take some of the money used for excess comfort and pleasure designed into the new police station and put it to better use that actually accomplishes something for more people.

We had some vandalism this summer, nothing major but shook us a bit. The police were right on it and kept us informed.

Way too many local groups of kids always hanging around the Athletic park. They sit in the street and you have to drive around them; very rude.

Used to feel safe enough to walk at night but too much riff raff from Chicago, etc have moved into Fergus. Much more gang related stuff now. More drug stuff.

until approx 5 years ago would have rated "very safe" now more knives, guns etc. in police reports even in broad daylight.

Unfortunately when properties are rented sometimes there are renters that make me feel unsafe.

To many crimes right know

This is not to be viewed as racist but as the city populations grows, there is the natural tendency to be more aware of law enforcement activities.

There are blind areas on some street corners. Traffic safety is horrible at times with people not stopping at stop signs but doing rolling stops. Kids on bikes shooting out on cross walks and not walking their bikes across the street.

there a lot of drugs and child molesters for a small town, however the police are doing a great job making themselves visible. I like that.

The only thing that made me feel unsafe was when someone was shooting out the back windows of minivans. I own a minivan.

The increase in poor people moving to town for cheap slum rentals is making it a less safe place.

The ***** COPS ARE *** ALWAYS***** ON BREAK PARKED AT THE HOLIDAY GAS STATION!!!!

teenagers need jobs that teach something

Sometimes lack of police presence is noticeable however do not need more police better managed ie not gathering at local restaurants more walking the street police presence

Some parts of town are scary to go through. And I worry about my son riding bike to school. Motorists are clueless and that whole new area by the school is a mess still. Need designated kid routes.

Some of the people do scare me, but... there's nothing to control who lives here.

Some drugs etc. like most cities

Seems to be more crime lately.

Safe from normal crime but unsafe to walk in. It isn't designed for pedestrians or children to get around in.

Reading the Daily Journal makes you wonder how safe anyone is nowadays.

Reading about crimes and seeing police activity in my neighborhood (East Junius) sometimes makes me nervous.

Police are not needed in the quantity we have presently...room for cuts, work w county officers

Police and Sheriff do a good job on crime.

Other than crazy drivers, can't complain! There needs to be more stop signs or yield signs around the city.

No detached garage is safe in this town, even when it is locked. I live on a busy street and keep mine locked, but there have still been two attempted break-ins I know of in the past six years. There have also been a lot of stabbings, but I do not fear those as those around here happen to people who are involved with drugs and/or heavy drinking and/or serious mental health issues. I know I am safe from them and feel safe walking on most of the streets by myself.

Need better lighting on some streets and some parking lots. We installed motion sensor lights out front because our street is too dark.

More kids out and about during the late evening and night with out supervision

Lots of police pulling over cars, id feel safer if there was more emphasis on stopping more serious crimes than 33mph in a 30

Lot of drug problems with people in the city. Seems like it is ignored rather than fixed.

live across from a group home where there are police cars there at times...

last couple years have been hearing of break-ins around lake areas.

It's surprising the increase in crime in the city that we read about.

It seems we many arrest (good thing) but drugs and those involved have taken a toll on feeling safe especially after dark

It seems to be less safe than it was when I was a kid in the 80s, but I'd venture to say that that is true all over the world.

it depends on where you are in the city.

it depends on where you are at, who you are with and what you are doing.

Increase in number of burglaries, cars broken into and instances of domestic violence make it "feel" less safe than it might.

I think the police do as good a job as you can get for the small amount they are paid

I no longer go for walks after dark or close to dark.

I moved to Fergus from minneapolis and it seams a little safer.

I liked the State Hospital better when it was FULL of kooky wack-jobs instead of them being loose or in group homes

I let my overall fear take over. I believe it is a pretty safe place to live.

I believe that our police department does a wonderful job of keeping things under control and keeping citizens safe.

I am not looking for more police- they do a good job. We need a better quality of people in our city. The new police dept should be built using an existing facility, WHEN it is needed. Otherwise the empty buildings we have already are being wasted, hence changing my answer above.

Fergus Falls has opened it's doors to people who don't share our history and pride of community. Local problems also exist so fewer of us leave our doors unlocked or go out to walk at nights alone, any longer.

Drugs, violent crime and juvenile issues are on the upswing in the last 2-3 years.

As an older person the acts of some give me an uneasy feeling of security; however it is worse in some cities and towns.

Although there is crime in FF, the ones responsible seem to "usually" get caught. It seems that many people are careless in protecting their property; probably due to a false sense of security.

A significant problem is lack of sidewalks forcing pedestrians to the street. This is especially hazardous in the winter. For instance there are no sidewalks east or north of Cleveland school. I see not reason for not having sidewalks.

Somewhat Unsafe

With so many people not working, there will be more issues, such as stealing, house entry. People want and will take it if they see it. I am not comfortable at night.

We NEVER get police patrols in this part of town.

Too many crimes now compared to 15 years + ago. Not enough police on duty during the highest crime rate times. Need more....I know....money first ???

There are some rough looking men and women wandering about the downtown. it's almost like the days of the RTC bus dropping off & picking up only with imports that already are problem people.

There are getting to be more and more drivers going through red lights and making right turns on red without stopping. Fergus Falls is not very pedestrian friendly.

The jail seems to be getting fuller and fuller of drug dealers, users and violent offenders. Lots of trashy people are moving in...

The increase in slum rental property has brought a lot of troublesome people to town.

street conditions

Police should be patrolling more. Too many people racing on the streets and music very loud after curfew hours.

Not very many police officers. People running stop signs. The driving is TERRIBLE!!

lots of thefts and burglaries...as well as an increase in more violent crimes

I wouldn't go out after dark, muchless let my kids out. There are so many teenagers running the streets, they throw stuff at you while you're driving etc. It's very uncomfortable.

As a senior citizen, I am concerned that there is increasing crime in the city. So far, not in our neighborhood, but still it is a concern.

Very Unsafe

We have had problems on our block with the house rentals here. Last year was the worst - I can't tell you how many times the police were called over at this one house in particular. A few of us in our neighborhood had to scream our heads off to the City to get something done with these people - they started fires, did drugs, had fights, used a swear word every time they opened their mouths, threw garbage in the front yard, and always had pets that they barely took care of and never cleaned up after - you name it, they did it. The police came when called but I think there needs to be stricture rules on these rental houses and real consequences for the slumlords that own them. The amount of police time, my time and my neighbors' time trying to resolve this problem was ridiculous! I still kringe each time new tenants move in. I also unfortunately live next door to people who have been arrested for selling drugs. I sometimes still see questionable activity (yes, I have called the narc dept) but I am left here to wonder what the police are doing about it. We also have a park down here (the Athletic Park) which always seems to have problems. Kids wrecking things, loud music blaring and streets being blocked by kids on skateboards or just congregating in the street itself. It is sometimes a meeting place, I suspect, for more drug activity. I don't dare let my grandson play at the park alone, which is a sad thing.

I used to walk from my house through downtown and around Lake Alice. Now I don't dare walk down the block and what this about letting all those sex offenders loose here in Fergus.

Other Comments

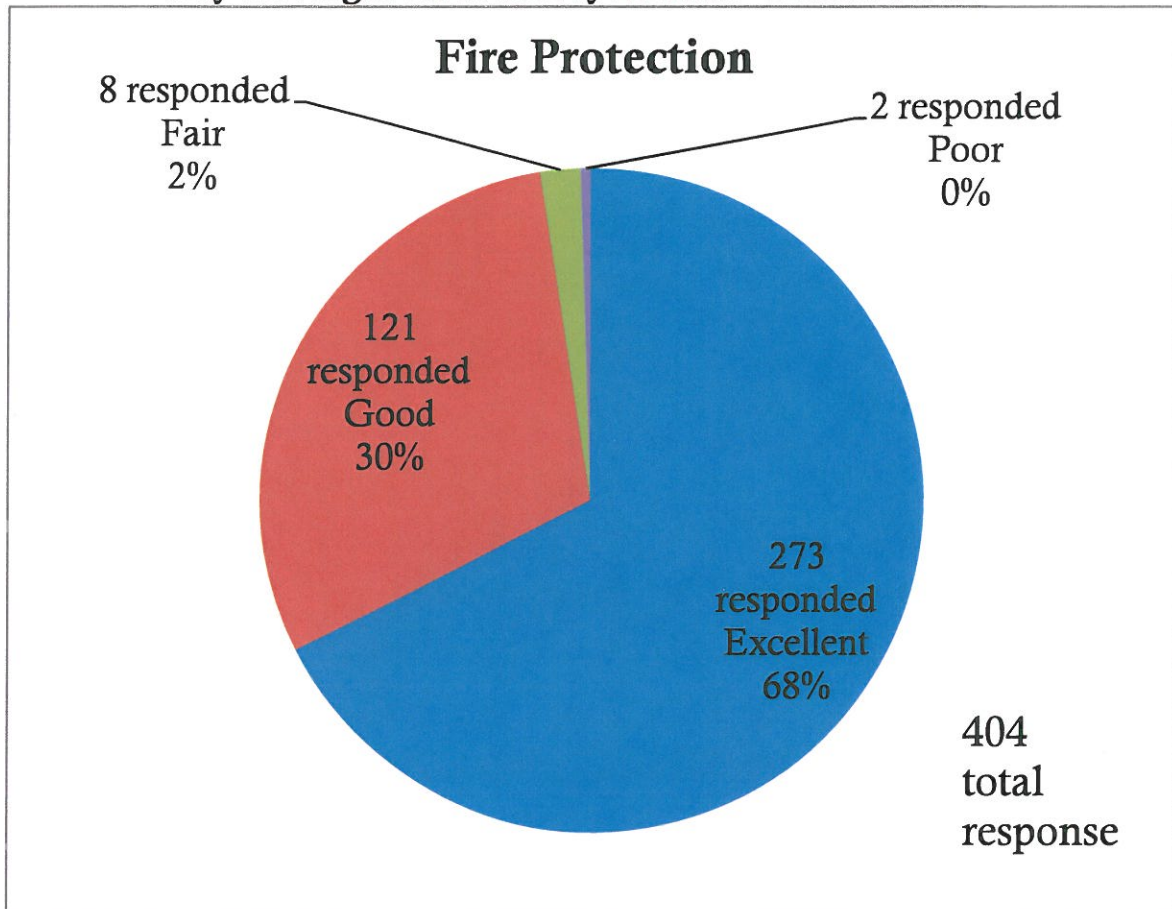
Why did the Council and Police Cheif pretend that the decision on the new police stateion was not made long ago. Long before the City paid nearly twice the appraised value of the land across from City Hall. Why not reveal who the land was purchased from?

not enough street lights and the wrong people out late at night. where does crime come from? but the cops dont check this group or that group walking they just keep driving along not enough for younger to do but walk around and get into trouble maybe not intentonaly but out of boredom

Don't Know

We have way to many Police per capita, They don't have anything to do, so they ticket the average person for 1 mph over the speed limit. etc. Over spent and over buget. I Think we can clean up the old police department, instead of building a new one. This money is being wasted that could be used on other more important projects, such as provideing JOBS that pay more than the minumum wage. to improve the tax base of the city. which will invite a higher class of people that don't require policing as much, so you see it goes hand in hand.

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Fire Department does an excellent job
Efficient, well trained volunteers
The department is community minded

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Rapid response time
Pride in training and commitment to the community

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Personal observations/opinions

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Personal observations/opinions

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall quality of fire protection services in the city?

Excellent

Would be nice if they would use thier sirens more often to make sure the cars get out of their ways. Keep up the good work!! THANKS!

We had a garage fire once and they were prompt and courteous even though it was at about 2am.

They are good at their job.

The Fire Department has been enhanced greatly in the last 11 years since 911, let not over do it! and stop spending & taxing to keep up with he other city Jone's!

Thankfully I've never had to use it.

So far no issues

Seems excellent, I have never had to use their services.

Our police dept. if Catching and arresting those who are a threat to our safety. Good Job!!!

Our paid staff and volunteers work hard to keep fire under control. I am impressed with the training the volunteers take each year,.

One of the best in the state

No comment - great department.

Love Sparky and Dean.

I have no personal experience with this service.

I have never had to use them so this is an assumption on my part.

I especially want to thank the fire department for the way they cared for the residents' apartments at the July 15 fire at 1046 Westside Drive.

homeland security money made for needed upgrades

Have not had need to use it

Have never had to use but appreciate the preventative services offered.

Great!!!

Great job

Good spaghetti feed!!

Good people in the Fire Department

Good job!

from what we have observed by a volunteer dept.

Fortunately I haven't had to use them, however, what I've seen is excellent.

Fortunately I have never had to experience a fire.

Excellent well trained and well led volunteer fire department. It has always been so.

Could not be better

As the city has grown (geographically) in recent years, we need to make sure we have adequate response times. Adding a 2nd and maybe 3rd fire station in the coming years would make a lot of sense.

Also, they are good community service people, relating well to the public and educating the school children.

Good

Would be nice if they took over the old U-Motors building on the west side, would make a very nice firestation sub station

we as people just kee trying to do better.

we are always trying to better ourselves with learning and training.

they are very fast at getting to fires

there arent many accessable hydrants near my house

The fire protection system you have in place really works well.

The FD seems to take great pride in their training and commitment to the residents of FF.

Seems to be a rapid response to fire calls

Reports indicate good response, and fire hydrants seem to be positioned well.

Quality professionals

No reason to complain, but don't you wish they would take chili-cooking lessons?

No experience, but it seems good

Looks like it maybe time to establish a second site for first responder vehicles with people who work in that area assigned, no full time needed if structured properly.

I've never had to personally use the fire department.

I think the police and fire dept. do a very good job.

I only rate as "good" as I have not personally had to use the fire department

I appreciate the volunteers in the department making our city better protected.

Hope to never really need it! Years ago the fire plus on our property at 105 Hilltop Ave had an extended flag on but it has disappeared and has not been replaced yet

Good until you need it, then ask me.

don't know a lot but we have good equipment

Fair

there needs to be a burning ban in this town, since some people are abusing it. they are burning their garbage on the ground in their back yards with no regard for their neighbors.

No personal experience, but it seems good

Fire dept budget is way over other cities of our size and the department isn't any better then say Detroit Lakes which responds to about twice the calls.

Disaster sirens can't be heard or non-working

Poor

When somebody from the fire department gives a hoarder permission to have a wood burning stove in the house while the hoarder has no running water and at least one other firefighter knows this happened, and that house is dangerously close to other houses, then I have to say there is room for improvement. The house visibly has combustibles piled above the windows and has only paths for the hoarder to walk, yet he was given permission to have a wood burning stove. As for response time, I think the fire department is prompt and seems to be professional once a fire has started from what I've heard, but I have not had to call them for a fire myself.

I assume they are doing their jobs.

Don't Know

We have an impressive looking fire department and trucks. I've never had to utilize their services directly so I cannot give a rating

Thank goodness I have no experience with this.

Never had to use them.

never had to use it

Never had to call them but enjoy the pancake and spaghetti dinners

Never had a fire thank goodness!! But if they have any needs we as a community should make sure they get it!

I've never been involved with a fire, so I can't answer this question.

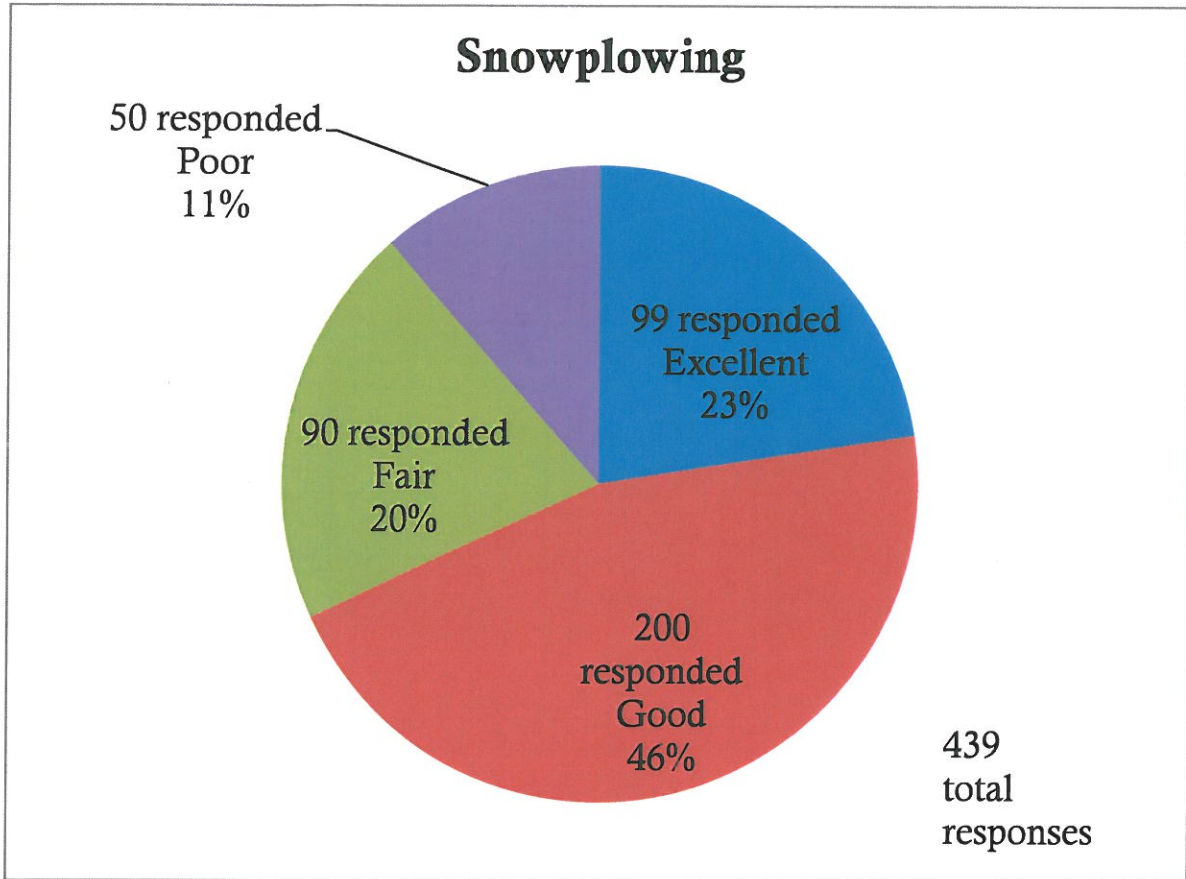
I don't know as I have not had a need.

I assume they are also doing a great job.

Haven't had to call or use the fire department staff. We enjoy the panake and spaghetti meals though.

Fortunately, I have not had to use the service. To my knowledge it is good.

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Major routes of town are cleared out quickly
Work is done in a timely and efficient manner

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Desire to be plowed out sooner
Complaints with driveways being plowed in or mailbox hit

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Wishing to be plowed out sooner
Wishing to have snow removed to the curb
Too many streets become narrow and hamper driving conditions

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Property damages
Suggestions for operations

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall quality of snowplowing on city streets?

Excellent

We live on Union Avenue and are always able to get to work, as it is one of the first streets to be cleared.

Very timely and carefully done.

Very prompt and efficient service except on weekends which is certainly understandable but difficult for those of us who work weekends.

Very impressed with snow removal for the city.

Too much salt and sand is used.

They are always on top of things and seem to be fast in doing the major routes.

The snowplows are very active and do a good job. They do knock down our mail box about everytime out. I can get to work in the AM after a large snow storm and that is more important than my mailbox.

Sometimes intersection visibility is blocked by snowbanks.

Snow is plowed and streets cleared fairly quickly.

Roads are kept open, and sanded for a good feeling of safety.

Only comment is they have to get out of bed in the morning and have more roads opened up, They can split the shift and start earlier. Alot of people are trying to get around at 5:00 AM to get to work to pay city taxes,etc. and cannot get to work as there is not enough snow equipment cleaning the streets. Plowing snow is not a 9 to 5 job. I feel we have enough equipment but the city employees don't want to work during the night to get this done by 5:00 am,etc.

Once in a while the snowplow knocks down our mail box but we know that can easily happen.

need to have no parking for snow removal on certain streets like Vernon, Lincoln, Union, ALcott to mention a few...there are others...homes that are rented need to have off street parking .

My neighborhood is very nicely taken care of, and on a timely basis.

I've always been impressed with how quickly the streets are clear after a storm. The business district is cleared of snow piles not just piled up. Thats nice.

I think they do a great job! Kudos to the crew and getting it done. I just wish the main street nearest my house was one that was plowed quicker!!!

I live on Union Ave; so my street gets first dibs on snowplows.

I find the removal plan to be fair, efficient, fast and responsive.

I am impressed at how rapidly our streets are opened up after a storm.

Except for plowing individual driveways

Even my out of the way cul de sac where I live gets good attention.

Don't cut back.

Done early and done well! Great job!

Dedicated snow plow/ snow removal staff

Good

We live on Lincoln Avenue and do not appreciate the excessive speed use by the truck drivers hauling away the snow.

We aren't here in the winter, but it has been good while we're here.

We are snowbirds but we live here thru December and plowing is on time and well done.

Wants Meadow Hill Lane to be plowed sooner

time to goto odd even system

This is a miserable job being done well. Congrats to the department responsible.

They pile loads on our boulevard and tear it up pretty much every winter, but that is a small price to pay for fairly clean streets all winter.

they do what they can with budget they have

They do a good job.

they are on it ready in the morning

They are always plowed whenever I need to get somewhere. I don't like that the plows leave big piles at the ends of our driveways though.

There are too many variables to keep everyone happy all the time. There should be snow emergency plan in place by now (I have lived here 36 yrs.) odd-even, north-south, something that gets cars off the streets and lets the crews plow edge to edge. Jim Neigel deserves a raise!

The timing of snow plowing, meaning who gets plowed out when, has gotten much better in the last five years. Used to be that the affluent subdivision in the north east part of the city got done first.

the streets in our neighborhood end up getting VERY narrow in the winter and then when you add street parking - there is only room for one car to travel at a time.

The snowplowing is done very well. We have noticed that the sanding is often unnefficient.

The roads are plowed quickly after a snow but it is not done in a logical maner. ie. sand /salt first and come right behind with the snowplow. The salt should stay on the street, not on the boulevard!

the one major complaint is all the snow that gets pushed into driveways. i know that there are attachments that can be added to the snowplows to minimize this.

The neighborhood we live in, Nicole Ct., always seems to be one of the last areas of town to be cleaned. Other than that the main routes and emergency routes are always open. We appreciate that the snow plow drifts are cleaned up in the downtown area and along busy streets.

The City used to plow West Vernon to Hillcrest right away; however, the last two years it has been one of the last sstreets plowed

The city needs to invest in a plow that will not leave piles of snow in driveways. We are a retirement community.

sometimes they cut up the lawns and grass along the edge of the yards

Sometimes plowed snow is left in the intersections; otherwise.....good job, and quick.

Sometimes it takes a long time to get our street plowed. I understand there are priorities, but I wish it was sooner.

Some gravel streets get little grading

Snow removal trucks go by too fast on Lincoln. Police should be stopping them for

speeding.

Snow removal is a tough job. We love our caldesacs. Most properties have a snowblower to help fine tune the cleanups. Patience. Next spring the obstructions will go away. Streets do not have to be perfectly clean.

should have a parking ban on snow days or even, odd side street parking!

Seems like too much salt is used in places it's not necessary.

Seems like some areas of town are always the last to be plowed and others are plowed right away.

Plows are out promptly after a snowfall. Miss the gates on the plows to prevent driveways from being plowed shut as was the case in the city I came from.

Our city looks great in the winter time. There is some inequity to the snow pile removal that does effect businesses. I do not want increased cost therefore I do not normally complain that the boulavard snow removal stops just short of my business. I pay to have the snow removed from my area to remain presentable and competitive and I also help pay (through taxes) for the snow removal of my competitors and nieghbors.

operaters could bend a little and push the snow to a side where there are no driveways
OK, But do not do private lots befroe streets.

Never had an issue with it, although I've noticed that it takes longer where we live now vs our old neighborhood. Not a major inconvenience however. Overall I'm satisfied.

It would be very much appreciated if the plows could lift the blade when it passes driveways to make it easier to shovel. It is very difficult to shovel that hard packed snow.

It seems like it used to be better - faster response

It seems like it always takes a long time to get to our area (Nicole Court). Any way to rotate the order of side streets?

It is good as long as the ice melts. Leaving some snow on top would bring better grip in tires.

I'm not sure anything can be done, but the plows leave such an extraordinary rock-filled sludge pile at the end of my driveway that makes it so difficult to clean, including in front of the mailbox. Like I said, I'm not sure much can be done about that.

I'm not here in the winter. The only problem in the past was hitting my mail box

I think our snow plowers do a fantastic job. It does make it hard when, while the snow is still falling, the streets are hard to get around in, but I do understand why they don't plow after every flake falls.

I think a rotation of some streets would be in order. Western Ave is always one of last streets plowed.

I live on Union Avenue, and understand the need to scrape down the piles of snow on the boulevard for visibility or emergency vehicles. However, every year, the plow operators scrape down so far that they take the grass off, and we're left with a messy, muddy boulevard for our four small children to traverse all spring while we try to regrow grass. Please, please, please leave a few inches of snow on my boulevard this winter!

I live on a busy residential street corner. The snow piles up on the corners blocking sidewalks and turning lanes. I think the city should use a small plow or loader to clean these when the initial snow plowig is completed. rather than depend on the residenst to try to open them with private equipment.

I know there is an attachment to snow plows that will sweep the snow beyond the driveways. Shoveling that huge windrow in the morning to get out of the driveway to go to work is very difficult after the plows go through in the night. Can something be done?

I just wish there was a way that the plow would not also plow up the boulevard soil- this problem gets worse each year.

I did not like it when was left to accumulate and become slippery, when there are so many senior citizens driving, we need the roads dry and free of ice and snow, This year I was pleased with the snowplowers.

I commend the crews who have this duty, the last few years have definately tested thier patience, equipment and budget.

I appreciate the promptness of the alley being plowed since many on our block have our garages off the alley. Thanks,

I appreciate the prompt snow removal (we live on a school bus route), however, we are on a corner and the plow driver pushes the accumulated snow around the corner and to the end of our driveway, making it extremely difficult to remove. And sometimes they do passes several times, so it gets filled in right after we've removed the snow. There must be some way to avoid piling the heavy street snow at the ends of driveways. Also, we are asked to keep fire hydrants cleared, but the plow also covers them deeply with heavy snow/ice that almost needs to be chiseled away.

Hate it when they plug my driveway. Otherwise roads are nearly always passable

Except clogging corner sidewalks 3 ft high, and mostly compacted snow/ice from streets that residential snow blowers cannot deal with. Had to call city last two winters to open up the sidewalk access to street., My neighbors benefited from this action too.

Don't appreciate every winter the snowplow coming off Williams Ave. and leaving stones all over my yard. I need to rake or pick up every spring to get rid of them before I mow lawn.

Do a nice job of opening up the main streets after a snowfall.

Difficut when plow piles snow on driveways

But we live on one of the mainer streets

better if it could be plowed closer to curb. (2' away on each side of street narrows it quite a bit.) But otherwise o.k.

at the intersections, they could do better

appreciate tollerence for poor people who need help. It's tough when cars won't start, but this presents an opportunity for paid workers to be kind, even if they must work harder to help others. A kind city is a great city.

Although sometimes they plow when there has been little snow

... on East Channing

Fair

Would it be advantageous to put into place no parking on city streets (odd, even days) for removal of snow?

would be nice to see them out when the roads are sloppy and get the snow that has melted off the road instead of them just leaving it makes for very crappy road conditions and isn't very safe either

Why must all plow drivers fill the driveway?

When plowed, the roads are great. Our cul de sac is often left unplowed until late day or the next day. That is frustrating.

We live on West Side Drive and must be one of the last streets to be plowed

WE LIVE ON A PRIVATE DRIVE OFF OF PARK ST AND WISH THE CITY WOULD PLOW THAT TOO. WE HAVE TALKED TO THEM SEVERAL TIMES BUT THEY KEEP SAYING NO YOU ARE CONSIDERED A PRIVATE STREET. WHY CAN'T PARK LANE BECOME A CITY STREET AS WE ALL PAY THE SAME FOR ALL THE SERVICES AND REAL ESTATE TAXES AS EVERYONE ELSE.

This is a difficult topic because the city crew works hard at plowing streets. Not everyone can be the first plowed out but sometimes it seems like it takes a long time (over a day) to get around to completely open streets. Unfortunately with the snow we have had the past few years the existing crew does make an honest effort and would really question allocating more money to do better unless we can do a better job predicting how much snow we get and when.

they do not move the snow to the curbs ,,,

they cover the roads(with enough plows, but when they snowplow, they do not put the blades down enough to get the snow off the streets properly, hence that makes the people getting paid to do the snow removal get to go back again and make more money when they pass by again. WASTE!!! do it right the first time. I am not speaking about another snowfall after they do it, but all the same snow,there is waste. I will watch people drive down our road and NEVER put the plow down at all, but they are getting paid for their time. Organizing and responsible employees are needed.

they are always tearing up curbs and or grass behind curb

They are afraid of mailboxes by the curb, as much as 4 feet away from curb.Driveway gets dumped on. I have to buy bigger snowblower as my small one about did me in mostly because of snowplow.

The snowplow driver likes to pile snow in front of the crosswalk to Adams Elementary instead of on the other side of the street. The snow gets too high on that side after one or two snowfalls, which is well before they come to remove it. The regular snowplowing seems okay overall, but the boulevards should only have snow removal done during the day in residential areas. It's impossible to sleep with them shaking the houses and having the unbearably loud beeping on. Even the best ear plugs don't block out that noise. Also, last one of last year's drivers should not have been behind the wheel as he hit every tree that was in the boulevard that was more than fifteen years old. Every elm was damaged, and most became diseased this year and were removed.

the snow gets piled up next to the sidewalks down town and it is very difficult for handicaped people to get in and out of their cars, also there isnt enough handicaped parking down town. The city has a large elderly population.

The roads are so poor that the plows can't plow down to pavement without destroying the plow so they leave just enough on the road to turn to ice, then they have to come

back 2 days later to sand the ice

Streets I would rate Good, but Ally-ways I would mark Poor...we have gone days without a plow down our ally causing much hassle for people that we share our ally-way with.

sometimes streets are cleaned right away

snow must be cleared to the curb in the shopping areas Cannot let ice and snow build up at the curb. Unsafe for people getting in or out of their cars on the passenger side..

side streets and intersections are usually a mes....all winter

Should have some type of parking ordinance when it snows

Seems to be better the last year or two.

seem to leave a fair amount of snow away from the curbs--possible to plow closer to curbs?

plowing should be done objectively, not react to complaints so easily

people need to move the cars and they just get in the way. i would like it if the driveways weren't blocked more then once

overall probably good, Guttenberg Hts. was excellent plowing 25 yrs. ago, and now plowing is poor to fair.

Our plow driver is so late on or street and N Vine is a busy street. Not plowed sometimes in the afternoon.

my personal street is very poor and SLOW, Westside Dr

Maybe a website to show when they are plowing and, especially, where they are plowing at any given time so we can move vehicles out of the way.

Main streets are good, but the side streets and dead-end areas are terrible.

Main arteries are good, we live on Buck Ridge Drive, and there have been times it's not plowed. If there is a wind with or after the snow, the drifting of snow piles up across the roads, and cars can't get through, thus no mail/newspapers get delivered unless we take it upon ourselves to plow the stretches that are deep. Then there are times the plows come by, with very little snow that fell and no wind, so no drifting. I would think they could understand the concept of what wind does to snow.

It would be nice if the plows did not bury our driveways, but the plows usually seem to be out in a timely manner after a snowfall.

It seems to take several days, or longer, to get the snow cleared all the way to the curb, particularly down Lincoln Avenue.

It is very hard to get into East Hillside due to the snow drift across the entrance from Cleveland.

It is certainly better than it was a few years ago, but we still don't get our street plowed often enough. When it is plowed, it is 4-6 feet from the curb. Makes it hard for us to get in and out of our drive and to our sidewalk.

I strongly believe that the City of Fergus Falls needs to implement a parking ordinance for the snow months. What you have now with no ordinance is inefficient, unsafe, and plain sloppy. I don't think there is any excuse for not dealing with this. Again, from the council standpoint I know the issues with snow month parking are not easy, but they are absolutely necessary to deal with. I do understand snowplowing as I plowed streets for a city for a number of years and have done snow removal for a private contractor in Fergus Falls for the last 3 winters at one of the largest commercial accounts in the city.

I realize this is a job that cannot be "planned." But possibly there could be more coordination in the department -- it seems like we end up with more snow in our driveways than was plowed on the street when someone comes through to open the intersections.

I prefer the streets to be cleared sooner rather than waiting until a certain amount of accumulation but I know this costs extra.

I live here on Maple, a single person, and when the plow comes by my place in the winter, it is the first house when he turns the corner. That first swipe of snow always ends up in my driveway and being 62 yrs. young and single, this gets to be quite challenging at times. It is my understanding that this is the railroad crossing that will be closed next year and a cul-de-sac(?) will be put in. My driveway is right there and I'm wondering if I'll still have access to my garage.

I have one HUGE beef with our snow removal system: I get absolutely infuriated when the city drives the giant snowplow ON MY YARD several times each winter to clear the snowbanks. Doing so kills my grass, compacts my lawn, and breaks my sprinkler heads. I understand why they do it. But I fully disagree that it needs to be done, or done this way. Don't like that plows fill the end of our driveway with snow each time they go through.

Don't like snow dumped on driveways otherwise great

Could be better. City needs better snow day rules

Poor

Workers need to be a bit quicker and perhaps notices in the paper or radio reminding the people of fergus falls to stay clear or avoid the plows and city workers would assist in the decrease of city workers frustration and rage. I can not believe how mean some people are to the plow drivers and workers.

when they don't need to plow you do and when you should plow you don't. Also when you plow alleys the snow shouldn't be dumped on the adjoining street.

When the snow plow goes by they fill up our driveway with snow so it takes a lot of shoveling to get out

Valley View Development many times last on list. Too much salt and sand used in this area!

too much curb damage

Tired of getting driveway cleaned out and then when plow finally comes by they don't lift their blade and we get plugged in again and have to start all over! Especially when they see us standing there with shovel in hand!!!!

This has gone from excellent to poor over a short period of time. It needs to improve.

They don't plow close enough to the curbs. The city needs to be strict when they say they are going to tow the vehicles that are on the streets when it is plowing and i have seen cars there for a long period of time and still not get towed.

They don't get close enough the the curbs. They are at least 1 foot away from the curbs and at the end of the roads the piles are always very high so then when you drive you can't see what is coming and stuff like that. They only take down the certain areas that they want to (important people) so then you cant see what is coming at you.

There's always large piles of snow covering intersections that are hard to get through. We don't sand nearly enough either. Streets are lousy in winter months.

The streets on the edge of town are not done until later, after 12:00 PM on most snow falls in our area and the driver does not get all the snow removed off the street. Most of the time there is another 10 to 20 feet of snow on the street to our property. We can not get to work until the snow is removed.

The sreetes get narrower after every plowing.

The main arteries of the city are fairly well maintained, however the sanding of intersections does not meet the safety needs for drivers in the city. I am very disappointed to see that main streets are left to have blown in snowdrifts after being plowed. It seems like there are not city folks out there checking the status of roads in the city when we've got blowing snow problems with the roads, and also assessing intersections that need to be sanded.

The city really needs to get the snow off these streets better and sooner than they do.

Sometimes plowed too often and other times not enough. Way too much snow is left in my driveway with no effort by the driver to minimize it. Sometimes piled up more than once for the same snowfall. My 8 hp snow blower is no match for the city equipment. Snow plows ALWAYS leave a huge ridge in front of my house whether I have parked there or not.

salt & salt brine is routinely applied after many snowfalls before plowing. This practice causes unnecessary damage to streets, vehicles, bridges, etc. **STREETS SHOULD BE PLOWED DOWN BEFORE SALT APPLICATION!!** Changing this practice would also drastically reduce the amount of salt & sand usage.

removing snow only after it has snowed 3 inches is dumb. the intersections on the side streets tend to get icy and no matter how hard you try you can't stop at intersections and almost get clobbered if someone is coming.

recommend that only one side of street overnight parking would improve streets in winter

Poorer than poor. To faro away from the curbs. If you live on a corner lot they put it all in your area and it will end up in your driveway. That stuff is so hard to break down when they get in in your driveway. Need to get out and clear the streets earlier for the working folks. They block the water drains and don't clear them so then there is water everywhere when it starts to melt and then it cools down and there is ice everywhere. please dont plow roads after you sand or salt defeats the purpose

Not enough snowplows/ unsure of the # the city has but last year the westside of town residential area majority of the time didn't get cleaned out till on average of 2pm.

Never seen a town before that puts sand on top of snow then comes back and then plows. Why not plow at the same time as they sand

Need to get the blade down further and sooner.

need to do a better job at plowing...don't grade enough off and builds up for next storm on road

Lots of blocked driveways, struck mailboxes, blocked sidewalks, snow stored on lawns w/o notification to property owners

Last street to be plowed out. Last winter could not drive out on the street until late afternoon.

If the city would go to odd/even parking in the winter or even all year long that would help!

I live on a dead end street and the 1st snow removal ALWAYS starts out being plowed at least 3 feet from the curb and gets worse as the winter goes by I've complained several times because the road ends up so narrow I have a hard time getting out of my driveway and they always leave a big pile on the corner of stanton coming off lincoln and heading east (down stanton) it sometimes get out there about 7 to 8 feet on the corner.

I have lost one mailbox and parts of my lawn due to the snowplow - slow down and don't get so close to the mailbox please!

I have been plowed in on several occasions, the main street is clear but the end of my street is impassable!! Maybe train your people on the use of a wing plow. The last few years the job has been terrible at times I open the corner and after the city loader I have snow pushed 6' on th sidewalk and a ridge higher than my snowblower!! THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE! SLOPPY WORK AND NO IDEA HOW TO CLEAN A CORNER!! I don't appreciate that the city clears the streets and blocks our driveway with the snow. This could be prevented.

Driveways here are filled with plowed snow. Snow should be plowed to the center of the street and hauled away, especially during heavy snow falls

Don't leave snow in intersections. Clear it away.

Before plowing they spread sand and salt and then come with the plows and after plowing come back with sand and salt. First they go one direction, then the other. Leaving big banks of snow in the intersections. Then have to come back with payloader to clean it up. It would be a money saver to plow and sand at the same time. There is a lot of room for improvement.

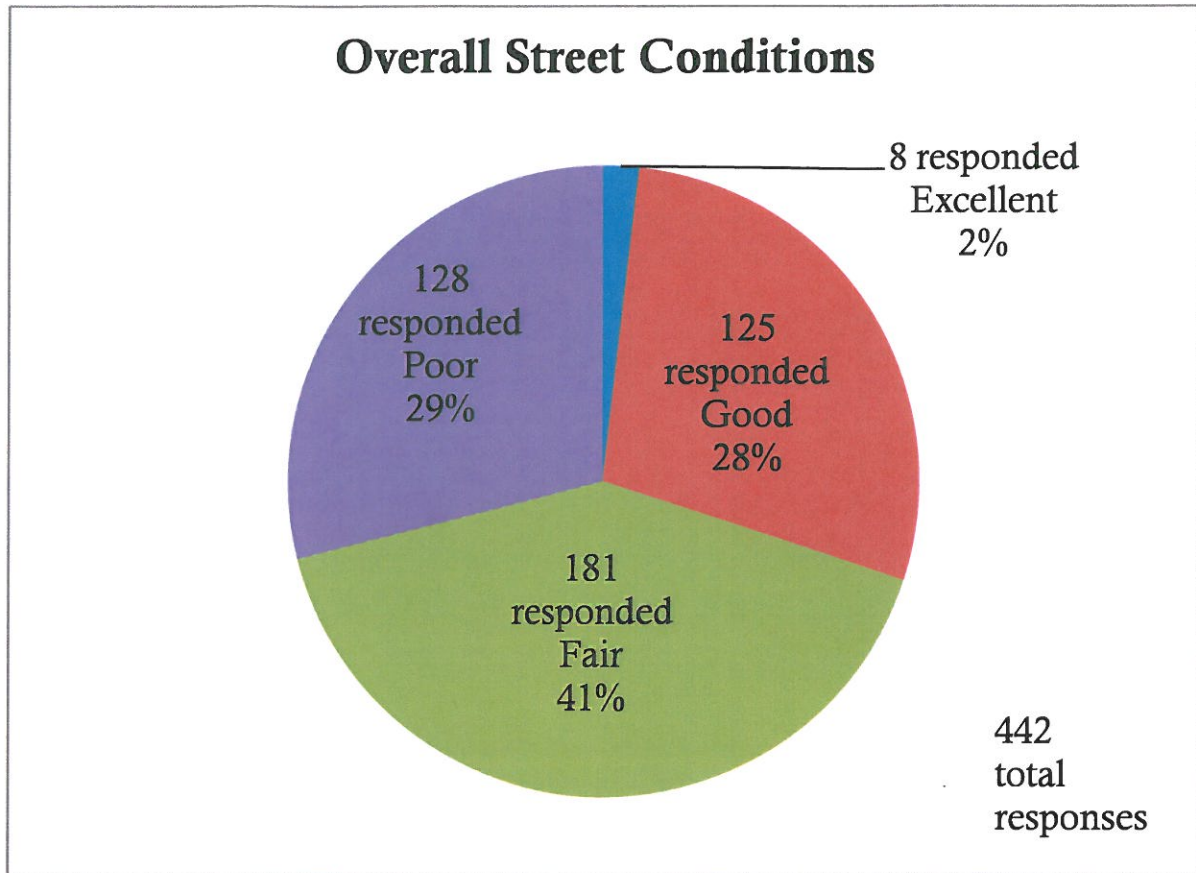
Always waiting until it's done snowing, we still need to get out and do the things that we need to do and we shouldn't have to drive unsafe roads because the city waits until it's done snowing to plow.

ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS LATE WITH ROAD SALT OR EVEN ***** SAND WHEN IT GETS ICY ON THE ROADS!!! ALSO BUY A GATE FOR THE END OF THE SCAPER FOR THE ROADGRADER SO YOU DONT HAVE TO PILE THE SNOW UP IN THE DRIVEWAYS

On Hilltop Drive there are no driveways until the western part so couldn't the plows push most of the snow to the south curb where it wouldn't be such a concern. There is nothing worse than the hard frozen piles that go onto the driveway.

No complaints

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

City is moving in the right direction on repairs
Repairs being made are visible

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Addressing areas of concern
Continous work to patch the streets
Main roads are generally in good condition- side streets need improvement

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Addressing areas of concern
Suggestions for improvements
Progress is being made, more room for improvement

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Streets go too long before repairs are made
Desire to focus on street repairs before other projects are addressed

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall condition of city streets?

Excellent

Potholes in the spring get filled pretty quickly.

Based on the excellent work the crews are doing to fix the streets in need of repair.

Good

With a few exceptions such as East Alcott

We live on W, Beech in the 100 block. Last summer it was resurfaced and the work was done efficiently and quickly with a minimum of disruption for the residents. It was very well done.

Very good at responding to filling pot holes in roads when notified of issue.

Too many in need of repair...

They are always patching pot holes... maybe it is time to re-do the streets with all the potholes. Love what you are doing for Lake Alice!

There have been quite a few improvements lately.

There are some streets in the city that need work bad. But times are tough,

There are some areas on Broadway that have "dips" in them. If a person does not know the street and is going just a little bit faster than they should be, the dip can jar a person.

I'm just wondering how this will affect us this winter with ice and snow.

There are a few streets that need some work but the city is moving in the right direction in these regards..

The trianular intersections near the fir and union swhould be made a roundabout to improve traffic flow. Especially the intersection just south of the Fir and Union intersection.

The main routes are in good condition.

The city works hard to keep us on good streets, but increased costs and a shortage of revenue make it difficult.

The city does a great job with limited resources - was very glad to see it rely on the county for Rt. 1 (through the city by the High School)

Some were getting pretty rough this spring/summer, but have since been addressed.
Some tar breaking away in street by driveways in places.

Some roads need work, but roads do deteriorate in time and the city seems to do a good job at repairs.

Some need repair or overlay but it all takes money and we understand that.

Some certainly need repair

Some areas of the city are bad ,, road behind service food

Some areas are very poor and never seem to get improved, but most are still in good condition.

Some are pretty bad, but on the whole the streets are good.

Some are definitely better than others. Well traveled streets are good.

Roads are just always going to need work, Fergus does a nice job.

Of course there are always plenty needing resurfacing, repairing and some need to wait since only so many can be done each year

Now that the road by the high school is repaired.

Now that Peck is being redone, it will be a major improvement, but they need to fix Vernon Ave. East

not to many pot holes

nice to see new seal coat on many streets

Much better after this summer. Vernon Ave. from Casey's to Union could use some attention.

Many examples of streets in fine repair, though also sections, such as Channing Ave near elementary school very rough--it's been in this condition for a very long time.

Main streets are getting done, which it needed, but several of the side streets need work. Know the city is trying.

Main roads are in excellent condition. Me and my family drive Alcott frequently and it will soon need work.

Improvements have been made since the last survey.

I was impressed by how efficiently Springen, Friberg, and the other street were paved this year.

I think the traffic control situation by Target still needs addressing. People are constantly confused at the intersection, and it seems that it's a bit hazardous for those on College Way to be responsible to watch traffic zipping in off 210. If you're from town you learn to proceed with caution, but those from out of town are another story.

I know the city has been working hard at getting our streets in good condition. I'm very grateful for that. Last year I would have said that the streets I drive on are very rough, but most are not. Now this year (after the city working on Peck St, Friberg, etc), I would say that the roughest roads in town are now better. If I can add my 2 cents, I think that Summit should be next.

I believe the staff does all it can with funds available..

Depends on the street.

Could it be that funds have been diverted for special interest projects in recent years?

could be better about fixing pot holes. Could do something about the Target store intersection....that's a crazy intersection!

compared to cities of this size in our climate

Broadway has a big dip and has for a very long time. Fun for the kids... not so much for the van.

Fair

You never get back to finishing the jobs you start. When will you ever finish filling in the huge sink hole on the 200 block of Broadway?

work needs to be done on many streets.

Why is the road by the library still gravel?

West Channing needs work.

we live in mn and are roads are not going to be smooth all the time.

vernon avenues is really poor

Try riding the bus over the streets. Of course, that might not be the best example.

too many potholes and broken/cracked street pavement

Too many cheap fixes in the past mean many streets are terrible now.

to many rough streets

This isn't an easy problem to handle, obviously. I believe they aren't real bad, but if you drive on a bad spot day in and day out, it becomes annoying.

This is an area that has been negelected over the years. Fortunately there seems to more attention being paid to this important part of our city.

They are OK. Many of the side streets. for instance Bancroft, are very bumpy with chunks of asphalt coming off. They get big holes in the spring. I hope the city continues fixing these side streets that need them. I hope Bancroft is on the list for next year for a new top layer.

There should be some "future goals" set up for all streets to receive better upgrades -- I think some streets seem never to get repaired and are poorly patched. Also, the alleys should be upgraded to blacktop--I think maintenance would be less expensive in the future.

There are some streets that are in need of repair.

There are some really good roads, but some really need to be fixed

There are quite a few streets that need repair

There are many streets that are like cobble stone. These have been passed over for many years.

There are many rough streets that need repaving with potholes filled. Too bad the city can't pass a sales tax for a few years to upgrade streets. Looking at the work done on the south side of Lake Alice it looks like a lot of work was done and a lot of money spent that destroyed too many trees and made the view look worse.

there are a number of streets in this town that need repaving. east summit by the levee is one of them.

There are a lot of repairs that could be done, but they have been working on it I see.

The streets that have been upgraded are very good but there are many that need help.....

The north end is good to excellent. The south end is in horrible shape. Channing Ave and surrounding streets are not good on a car, and now South Union is crumbling. The blocks between the hospital and Adams have been in awful condition for at least six years. Channing is also too narrow to have parking on both sides of the street since it is a street with a lot of truck traffic and farm equipment driving on it. People on Channing have garages. Parking should be limited to one side to allow semis to turn uphill onto Union.

The main streets are in very good condition. However, some residential streets, such as Court Street and Vasa and Alcott west of the hospital are very much in need of repair.

Streets need work. I understand the budget constraints and the current challenges. But the streets are in rough shape.

Streets did improve somewhat this past summer. Repairs are still needed.

Some streets are very overused and hard to keep in good shape

some sections need work badly

Some resurfacing needs to be done. Especially where sewer and water utility lines are tying into mains. Some of the "dips" are extreme. Can a better job of packing trench bottoms be done before laying pipe and tying in? I think so. Take the extra time to do it right. It saves money in the long run.

Some of them are pretty bumpy and resurfacing isn't going to do the trick.

Some of the streets could use some more work and repair

some of the "repairs" make the problems worse! Have you not heard of a roller for smoothing the patches?

Some neighborhood streets have been waiting too long for decent surfaces.

Some fine. Some awful.

Some are quite good, many are in great need of repair.

Some are in great need of repair but have seen quite a few that have been repaired in the last few years.

Some are great, some like my block are terrible!

sidewalks in south west sides of town are ***** (vernon and south)

Really not good, but....again...money....again would need to raise property taxes on a city with seniors on fixed income... What to do huh?

Railroad crossings rought Roads rought

quite a few streets have needed resurfacing for a long time.

Progress has been made this summer but many streets still rough and manhole covers on black topped streets are rough

Pot holes, bumpy roads.

Pot holes not fixed in timely manner

Please do something on the gravel roads to cut down on dust!

No secret to anyone, that there are some areas that need work.

needs work

My street was top coated this summer making nice and smooth but there are several locations that are very rough.

Much work has been on many of the main through fares but there i s a lot to be done.(I realize there are budget restraints and the city is doing the best they can.)

Most are in good repair, but the side streets near the hospital are horrible! Need to keep the lines painted-my daughter who is learning to drive commented on how hard it is to see some of the lane lines in town.

More consideration when going by drive way - Corner lot so get really dumped on.

Minnesota Weather is not kind to pavement. Please set up a Facebook page so we can tell you about potholes!

many streets need work very rough

many streets need repair

Many streets need more than just patching...many have already been patched a lot and need resurfacing.

Many are falling apart. However, repair work is noticed and appreciated.

lots of work needed

Lots of streets could use an upgrade.

lots of repairs need to be made. Currently the city's biggest problem.

Lots of repair needed on many streets, but has improved after the summer work.

Lots of chuckholes, dirt filled

I with the street sweeper could maybe make a few more passes in the year. It always looks so nice when they are done. I guess our street could use a little TLC. Since I've been here, nothing that I can remember has been done to it.

I see this as the most serious issue that the city needs to deal with. The infrastructure of city streets is very important. In the 3 years we have lived in Fergus Falls, it has looked to me like the city is going backwards on street maintenance. It is the source of the most negative comments that I hear regarding the City of Fergus Falls. It seems to me that the City council and staff need to look at streets as a top priority for many years to come. I believe that it is looked at as an important issue but not a top priority. I say these things with some first hand knowledge as I served on the city council of the city we move from and dealt with many large city street projects.

I know the city is doing the best it can with a limited budget.

I don't really fault the city or county for this, since I know funding doesn't keep up with demand. It would be nice if we could get some of the "dips" smoothed out on some of the main roads in town, though. I can deal with that stuff on side streets, but it's tough hitting them at 30+ mph on the main roads.

Fergus has quite a few bad streets.

Every other street is OK. Some are wretched, however.

Eventually the streets will need to be a priority in the city budget; however they are tolerable.

Deteriorating faster than being repaired.

Depends where you are at, some definitely need attention.

Depends on where you are. Some streets are really bad and some are very good. It appears that the city is trying to gradually improve the streets of our city. I believe one of the most dangerous intersections in our city is the three way stop at Union and Vernon Avenues. Other intersections where people take chances to cross are Mill and Vernon, Union and Summit and the intersection at the entrance to Target.

City streets should be and probably are) on a maintenance schedule. Financial concerns need to be considered when creating this schedule.

Channing is rough, as are other streets in town, but I know it's a challenge to keep it all up.

Channing Avenue needs definite repair. There are other streets as well, but Channing seems to be a busy street.

actually fair to poor - mostly really bad where they have been repaired and not properly closed, paved and tamped

a lot of roads are rough.

Poor

Without a doubt, we have the worst streets of any city in the area. We spend our money on ice rinks, convention centers etc. rather than streets.

why did we not fix our streets instead of building that darn ice area?

We pave the roads and the two weeks later cut holes in them for utilities!!1

We are spending \$12 million on a bridge by-pass route while we have pot holes on almost every street causing damage to residents cars

Too many potholes, cracks and uneven sections of road surface.

Too many potholes and rough roads

TO many need to be resurfaced.. there needs to be a plan to resurface street on a yearly basis so that in say ten years you start over...if not before. as some get more use

This is in line with most cities anymore it seems. There are to many streets that you can't hope to drive down without dislocating your spine.

They never get roads fixed on time or when they do get them fixed they rip them up right away.

They let the streets go unrepaired too long before anything is done.

they a very bad I visit alot of city's in Mn and never have I seen roads as bad as Fergus Falls

there was a time when residents of other communities would boast about how good our steets in Fergus were, cant say that now.

There are numerous streets in town that are badly in need of repair. This problem lessens the appearance of the city and leaves both residents and visitors to ask why the streets are not being properly maintained.

The streets in Fergus Falls are so broken up and rough. A majority of the streets need to be repaved.

The streets could have used the money way more than the hockey arena and police station.

The streets are in bad shape.

The streets are an embarassment. I work in recruiting and the impression to those visiting is a very poor reflection on our city.

The roads in Fergus Falls are absolutely horrible.

the paper said the streets in hospital sector would be fixed this year and instead they tore some gapping holes in Cacade at the corner of Vernon and left it all summer - bumping and oozy clay -still havent re-paved anything ----- the tracks near the library on cascade are "rougher than a cob" - a highly used street --- these should be made like the crossing in front of 1st Lutheran on Union

The city is more interested and Hockey Arena's and special interest projects than they are in taking care of the average citizens needs and wants.

The city fathers need to ride a bike in their area's then they would know how good the street's are.

takes away from the beauty of the city

spend some money on the streets oh ya you have a hockey arena!

some/many residential streets are in very poor condition

Some streets (mostly residential) seem like they are made up of mostly asphalt patches. That being said, I HAVE noticed all the repairs this year.

SOME OF THE SIDE STREETS REALLY NEED REPAIR.

Some have been repaired, still many to be done. Hockey rinks took priority!

so many streets have gotten bad in the last few years.

Side streets are in very poor condition. Pot holes in warmer months are not repaired. Why does the city start major road construction projects at the beginning of the school year? School traffic needs to be regulated by traffic lights. The school traffic is horrendous now that all schools use Kennedy for their bus exchange.

should spend more of city funds to fix the rough streets.

Poor to fair, many are in need of an overlay. Street repair should have been a priority, not Tower Road which will keep people from shopping downtown, and close the service road past Pine Plaza.

Poor conditions on Vasa and Channing

Pavement is degrading, "patch jobs" slow and less than smooth. Constant grain truck traffic down Lincoln ave (including through the business district) when a rail line exists! Curbs are deteriorating and "yellow zones" not always clearly painted.

Pavement and potholes need repair; I realize this is a constant problem due to our freeze/thaw conditions.

Our streets are a disgrace.

Our fore fathers got all these streets paved. How come we can't maintain them now??

Only a complete fool would ask this question

One patch on top of another.

not impressed with maintenance or street sweeper rotation.

Most of the existing city streets are in need of resurfacing. I have never lived in a city where the asphalt is crumbling on so many side streets. I also question the projects that have been happening lately. I question why Cleveland was repaved in the same area twice in two years (a few years ago), and why we are spending money to build a new bridge that is "more convenient" for residents to get to the mall area. Let's fix the existing roads before we spend a ton of our money doing that project.

Maybe we should build more new buildings in town then we would never have any money for streets. The streets are the worst I have seen anywhere . Hal Leland when you run for reelection you wont receive my vote.

Many streets need resurfacing. We hit a bad pothole the other day, and our street heaved in places this spring--has not ben fixed.

Many streets have broken rough surfaces and are in need of repair.

Many streets are in desperate need for repair. Should have been taken care of instead of hockey rink. Eveyryday the rough conditions remind me of that rink

many street are very rough. no lines!

many need repaving

many frost heaves and potholes and on major arteries of town not just side streets
Many city streets are rough and bumpy and shold be repaired instead of focusing on the hockey rink

many areas are very rough and in need of reppair for several years

many are rough, full of holes, uneven

Man holes lower than streets. The turning lanes that are throughout the town barely anybody uses them and I am just waiting for a serious accident to happen. By the high school they need to go back to 2 lanes. There would be more parking and not get that area backed up. Also the traffic gets backed up there because they don't wanna use the turning lane.

lots of streets in poor condition

lots of potholes that need to be fixed in town

Lots of cracks in streets. Our street (N Sheridan)has a sign that has rough road but nothing has been done with it to help it or smooth it.

It is very much appreciated some of the recent repairs that have been accomplished.

Instead of an ICE PALACE, FIX THE STREETS!

I walk and push my child in his stroller and the roads are bumpy and rough. When I have sidewalks to go on, when coming to the road to cross the street there is usually a bump when crossing the road.

I travel throughout the county. Fergus falls has the worst, roughest, streets and roads in the county

I have noticed that the roads are getting some TLC. I am still going to put poor because I would like more improvement.

I have a hard time with that we have a machine for cleaning them but don't seem to repair or keep them up very well.

I can not believe the City of FF Port Authority allowed the spending on the Ice Arena, They need to be "Voted Out" These measures need to be voted by the RESIDENTS. This in turn would have allowed for the expansion of a bridge over the Ottetail river on the East Side of Town, That would keep traffice from going through Town, Peck street area example. and come out by Medow Farms Foods, Keeping a huge amount of traffic from main streaming through town and accident proned 30 mph speed limits and poor streets.

however many are being fixed now

how will we get to ice arena with condition of streets?

How can a city budget monies for a hockey arena and a police station, yet not keep up the city streets? The streets in this city are beyond terrible. When they do work on them, they are great, but there are WAY too many that are not fixed at all.

Horrible

have YOU driven down channing? have you driven on Alcott heading west in the winter? when you pass OAK and your car slides to the curb because the crown is so bad

Friberg ave got resurface than dug up again like a day later.

Fix them please and quit wasting \$ on junk like the new police facility!

First thing newcomers see is the condition of the streets, second houses and yards. It is not please bouncing over all the potholes and cracks in the streets. Maintenance has been let go too long and now it is really bad and will be far more costly to catch up.

Every street has major repairs needed. The holes are enough that damage the underneath of my vehicles driving on the streets daily. Definately needs attention to get them back to where they belong or rip tar off and put them all back to dirt for less repairs.

enough said

Don't the city staff ever drive on residentail streets

Do not put so much salt on them and they will last longer.

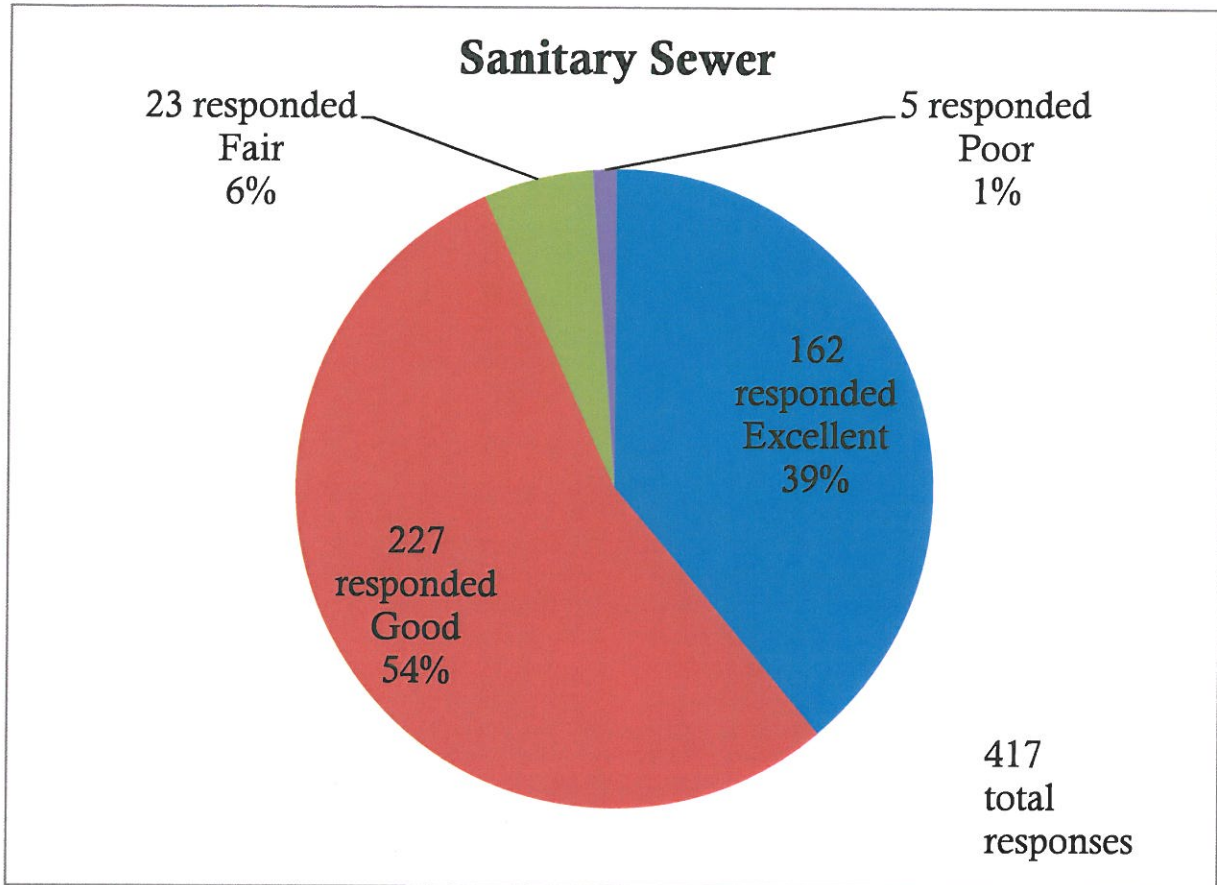
condition of streets is getting worse and worse every year...all you have to do is ask you children who grew up, went to school here and moved on after college. When they come back to visit they can't believe the potholes, unpainted streets,lack of flowers.

city council and county officials have determined that priorities are not in alignment of where their budgets are. Streets should be repaired BEFORE we spend tax dollars on new ice arena, new police dept, bridge that is NOT needed, etc. City and county officials need to live within their budgets and stop spending before these issues are resolved.

alcott is bad going towards the hospital

Mostly terrible

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Good service
Few complaints

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Requests for preventative maintenance
Feeling that services are expensive
Dependable and quality services

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Issues to be addressed

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Individual issues

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the dependability and overall quality of city sanitary sewer service?

Excellent

Works great in my area of town.

They do a great job.

There was a comment made by Mr. Somnor several years ago when he was justifying a rate increase that has always bothered me: he stated to the effect that we should pay more because similar sized cities charged more for their services. Well, that would/could certainly be a selling point for people to move to Fergus...not part of the status quo; cheaper to live here! Just because others do it doesn't mean we should "have" to.

The rates for the services we get are plenty. I realize that fees & quality of service usually go up together, but I think that this is enough

stop adding so called fees to bill. stand up and call it a tax as it is.

Some of our infrastructure is getting old, and we will need to develop a plan to replace it.

No problems.

no issues

No complaints.

No comment - good service

It's nice to see the recycling truck with workers who appear to be happy and caring to do a professional job.

I haven't had any bad experiences with it.

I haven't had an issue yet.

I have never had any problems.

I don't know why we are getting ADDITIONAL FEE'S on our water/sewer. STORM DRAIN biling ever month, I don't want to pay fees for the ottertail recycling building, If it can't fund itself, get rid of it. The STORM DRAIN fee is truly pouring money down the drain!

Haven't had any problems. But always thought the rates are pretty high compared to other cities. The rates have more than tripled since I lived here 13 years ago.

Have never had a problem

Great work. It appears there has been some financial improvement to reduce costs in the last few years.

everything works :)

Do think that recycling should expand to pick up more plastics..VERY narrow at this point..and also promote recycling efforts! Everyone should be doing this!!

Good

What is with the continued pumping of the slew south of the hospital? I live in the area and it is an ongoing driving hassle. Glad something is finally being done about Lake Alice.

We've never had any trouble with this.

This is only anecdotal, but a number of residents, myself included had sewer pipes fail where they run under the boulevard to the street, and it is curious that we the homeowners had to pay a fairly substantial fee to rectify the problem. I wonder about the city's culpability in this regard. Other than that the system works well.

the water is good

The expense of pumping water to move it around town and eventually end up someplace seems a bit much. A problem is solved one place and then moved someplace else so that can be solved to make it look like something is really being done. There is a definite water problem in Fergus Falls with the rise in water levels and excessive moisture the past several years. The city needs to help solve that problem but not sure spending money for electricity to run pumps is the best answer.

Start testing water for pharmaceuticals....at least the common elements in ibuprofen, tylenol, birth control, etc.

Seems to work!

Probably good because I don't know of sanitary sewer problems. Perhaps that is being addressed as drainage was being put under Vine St probably from the river to about the 200 block north. I've been expecting it to go further to the north as funds are available. Dan Edwards and the city responded to flooding problems in the north west area of the city some years ago by digging holding ponds along Broadway. Again, the city responded to needs of the citizens. One problem is that I have heard that the bills may not be carefully figured to give residents credit for water and sewer when less water is used than the previous quarter. I hope those figures are done carefully.

No problems.

no problems yet

It just stinks in a person's household when they do come and drain the sewer system like they did in our neighborhood a couple of weeks ago. It took a couple of hours to get the smell out of our house.

I live up behind the mall. When the company working on the bridge hit our water main, that dropped the dependability. It was worked on last Monday and now on Sunday there still seems to be an awful lot of air in the water line.

I do see water main breakes around the city and wonder why

however, there seem to be a lot of breaks

For some reason the corner of Broadway & Stanton seems to have problems & be closed yearly for a short time.

Expensive

Except for the drainage into Lake Alice especially at the North end.

Dependabililty and quality is fine. The bill is a little crazy-expensive, though.

At times there can be a stench from the waste water treatment plant

Again, never had an issue. It is nice not having the issues with the dairy stinking up the west side of town.

Fair

too many tree roots that we have to get out ourselves. Grates should be cleaned out better.

The park down town is not a good example of city sewer every time it rains hard.

picking up trash could be improved..your people have attitude issues big time

I HAD TO PAY FOR A NEW PIECE OF SEWER MAIN IN THE *****
STREET!!!! HOW IS THAT MY PROPERTY????

Every once and awhile you get a foul smell up the pipes

While I haven't had any problems, I don't see much in the preventive maintenance of our infrastructure here. seems like we wait until things break in the winter.

where I live

Poor

We have an average of one water main break a year in my neighborhood. The plumbers know more of my neighbors than I do, and I am constantly out walking, biking, or running. Many of my neighbors have their pipes roto-rootered three times a year. The city also has to roto-roter our neighborhood. The good thing about the water main breaks, though, is that the patches of blacktop are the smoothest part of the street.

In my neighborhood it's terrible.

A number of residents suffer from sewer back up, needs a plan to upgrade before they repair the roads

Very fine in our opinion

No complaints

Don't Know

We live on Swan Lake.

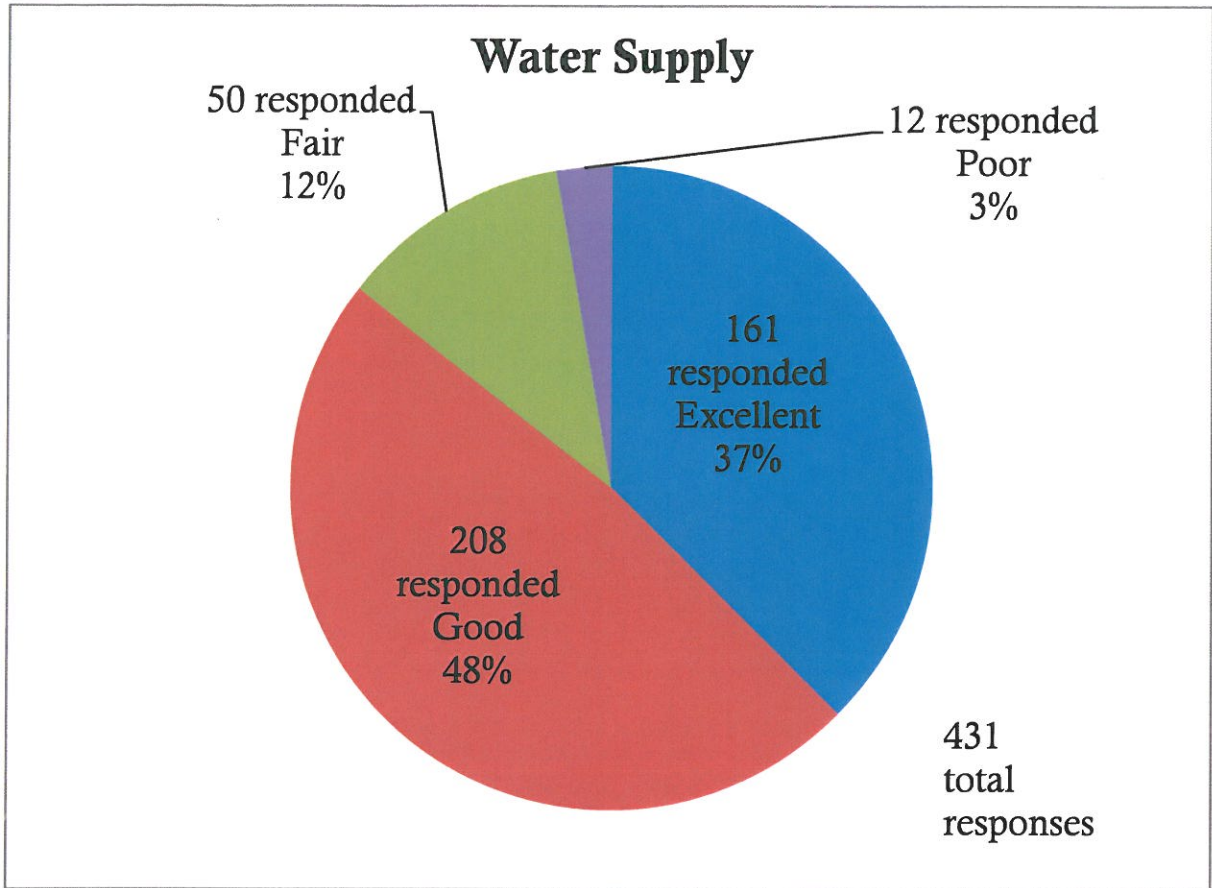
our street has septic

Other than the stinky lift stations that are around...poor placement.

Not used at this time, septic system

It works!

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Good quality and pressure
Improvements being made

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Issues with taste and smell- especially in the spring and fall
Water pressure could be increased

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Issues with taste and smell of the water
Water pressure low in certain areas

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Low water pressure
Taste and smell

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the dependability and overall quality of the city water supply?

Excellent

Very good. We needed to spend some of the wasted ICE ARENA money on IMPROVING WATER PRESSURE AND FLOW TO RESIDENTS. Just another basic fundamental that is being overlooked for fun & games.

very good water

See previous statement....I think water will be one of our strong selling points in the future....

o.k. the supply is excellent but it seems like maybe mid summer it can get a smell to it.

Never had a problem.

Keep up the good work. Is there a contingency plan in place in case of an emergency? Like contamination or cut-off? Security? With the crazy world we now live in, this needs consideration.

It is great to have good water always available. the quality has improved from several years ago.

I have RO system for my drinking water.

I have not had any problems with the city water supply.

I am no longer aware of the taste the water supply had late summer, years ago.

has the hilltop area been provided with adequate water pressure, as long as they are being taxed for the service?

give us a tower on the south side (hilltop add.)to give us better pressure without ind pressure pumps

For 35 years the water has been great...only in the last month have I wondered if it seems different..more alkaline or something..has there been a change?

Even with antiquated pipes, the only time of year the water is bad is for a week or so in the spring.

Better than anywhere else I have lived except on our farm.

Again, some of our infrastructure is aging, and we need to develop a plan to replace it, a piece at a time.

Again no problems

Good

We do not have good water pressure most of the time. I have been to other cities where the water has much more pressure.

We always have water when needed, but dislike the taste of the tap water.

Water usually tastes bad in the spring and fall

water taste isnt good

Water supply is good but pressure is below standards in areas. Overall this needs to be corrected - not by purchasing pressure pumps - they don't last long.

water pressure seems on low side

Water pressure at times seems to vary, but generally sufficient.

Water doesn't taste good. I need to filter it for decent taste.

Though I know alot of people who don't live in Fergus that say the water tastes moldy or dirty. It did take me awhile to get used to the water.

The taste is better than in the past. Less fishy. Again, I feel like the bills are a little pricey. the fish/alge smell & taste leave something to be desired.

The dependability it first rate. Since moving here from further north, I have always felt the "quality" of the water i.e. taste, was sub-par.

tastes funny sometimes

tast good

sometimes the water has an odor.

Sometimes I can't drink it without using a Britta water filter (mainly in the spring).

Sometimes I will not drink the water from my tap because the water smells either like river water or fish.

smell is terrible

Pretty high in chlorine but that may be unavoidable. You will also have less heavy metals and contaminants in the water if the Hoot Lake coal power plant is finally closed and replaced with something better for the environment. Also it will improve the air quality for Fergus as well. There are some days the smog settles in downtown and it is awful.

OUR FIRE HYDRANT HAD NOT BEEN FLUSHED OUT FOR OVER 10 YEARS. WE HAD TO CALL THE CITY TO COME UP AND DO IT THIS LAST SUMMER AS OUR WATER WAS TASTING A LITTLE FUNNY. ONCE IT WAS FLUSHED OUT THE WATER WAS BETTER. THE CITY NEEDS TO FLUSH IT ON A REGULAR BASIS AND NOT HAVE TO BE CALLED.

only problem I see is lower water pressure in areas being built up with more water usage esp in the southern areas of the city with out a water tower

Not the best tasting water.

no problems yet

No problems with the water.

no problem in our area, but hear of other problem areas.

Never had a problem with it.

My family complains about the odor and taste of the drinking water at times.

more pressure would be good

It is unfortunate millions can be spent on unnecessary things and a water tower with adequate water pressure cannot be provided to some citizens on the south side of town equal to other residents in the city. For example take some of the excess plush ness out of the design of the new police station and provide a real service to all people.

If someone forgets to pay their water bill, or has an online banking error, a phone call that their water is about to be shut off would be a lot more courteous and a time saver for the shutoff crew. This has happened to our family 2 or 3 times in the past year, and I have never seen a "shutoff letter".

I still need to use a carbon filter on the water to improve the taste, but I do not need a softener and the pressure is good.

I still have a filter on my water to improve flavor

I haven't had any issues yet, so as of right now it's great.

I have always liked Fergus water and always drank it from the fountains at work, etc., but I had to listen to a lot of people complaining about the taste, etc.

good at my house

Gets a strange taste in the fall, but that's the lake's fault, not the city's.

except that the taste is terrible during the summer.

Bad smell in the fall of the year. Hard then to believe it is meeting standards, though they say it is.

Although you here of people suffering loss especially in the winter when they freeze, this suggest old pipes that need renewal

Fair

We live in the area west of Bethlehem Cemetery, and our water pressure is low. It is not quite as bad as some of our neighbors, but if I want to fill a large pot to boil pasta, I go down to the basement and do it because it's faster! Dispite a petition and hearings at city council meetings, the city's response is unsatisfactory.;

Water tastes bad some times of the year

Water pressure varies with distance from water towers

Water not good at times

Think people on south side are mistreated, the low pressure.

The water is not too tasty.

The quality of drinking water is low. The water tastes like dirt. I avoid drinking tap water at all costs.

The dependability is good. The smell and taste of the water is very bad...sometimes terrible.

TASTES FISHY

Taste like chlorine, we use a purifier

sometimes the water has an "off" smell and looks green/yellow in the bathtub

Preasure is very low in our area.

poor water pressure

need to quit using runoff water esp. in spring re pesticides and herbicides and manure

low pressure

It has a bad taste.

In the spring and certain times of the year, a person can tell there is a higher level of mold or something in the river. The water tastes like bleach and or smells funny.

I think our water tastes terrible in comparison to surrounding municipalities.

I can't drink the city water. It tastes gross so we filter everything we drink.

has bad taste in the fall.

Has a swamp smell, people visiting drinking tap water or showering are taken back by the smell.

City water has a muddy/grassy taste. While not as bad as sulfer in well water, it still is tough to drink quantities without filtering.

bad taste

At times water still has terrible odor after years of this being talked about

adjust payments as to when you go from 8 to 2 people living in a home and not be overcharged because its not a month to read the meter

Poor

We have very poor water pressure here. The taste of water is less than satisfactory, we use a reverse osmosis for our personal consumption of the water.

Water pressure is in bad shape. 37 lbs. is bad.

Very poor water pressure

Usually it works, but somedays smells like dead fish and then the next HEAVY Chlorine

The water tastes AWFUL!!!

The water smells and tastes terrible

The algae in the water from July through September makes it not drinkable. I've lived in several cities that get their water from rivers must worse than the Ottertail and it's nothing like here. Water pressure on south Cascade sucks! I don't have a basement and do not have room for and auxillary pump, I would have to add on to the house.

Poor water in my neighborhood. Not enough pressure and stuff.

Most people I know would rather have something else if offered water from the tap. FLORIDE. removing it from the system can only be good. it is a poison and does nothing good for your teeth or your body or the system. B.L. used to have outstanding water until they changed the way they treated it 8 years ago?? not sure what they did.

Low water pressure in the Hilltop area.

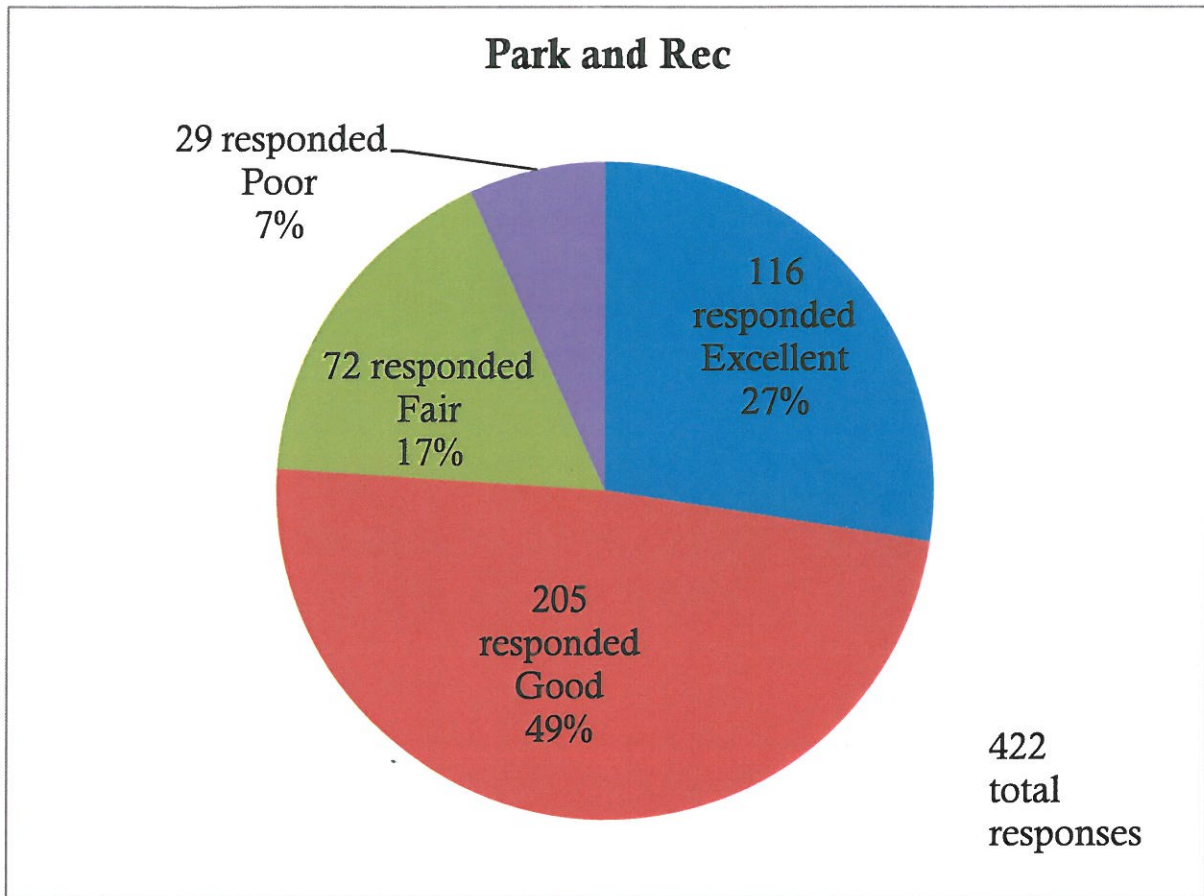
I will never accept the city's position on the low water pressure situation on South Cascade/Hilltop area. We deserve better water pressure like the rest of the city without changing our household plumbing!

Can't something be done about the horrible taste of the water in summer months? July through September the water tastes musty.

Very fine in our opinion. Qualtiy is very good and our flow is just fine and always has been since we've lived here

dependability good, but water ranges from "river" smell to sometimes almost overbearing chlorine odor

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Beautiful, well maintained parks
Requests for more recreation options

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Request for more options for younger kids and senior citizens
Request for more walking and bike paths and an outdoor swimming pool
Park updates needed

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Request for outdoor swimming pool
Keep the programs affordable

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Request for more trails
Keeping the programs affordable

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall quality of city recreational programs and facilities (e.g. parks, trails, park facilities, etc.)?

Excellent

We've got so many beautiful parks that are well maintained. The display of American flags on special occasions is breath-taking every time and instills pride in our city. GREAT JOB on taking the initiative to provide our residents with a new ice arena!!!

We have many parks to choose from. Most of the time the parks are empty so we must have no more need for parks and facilities. They are kept up and I feel we are good on parks.

This is especially true now that we are getting the new ice arenas in the middle of town!!

They are all so beautiful and accessible

The parks and trails I use (D'Lagoon and One Mile Prairie) are very nice and I enjoy using them.

The buget needs to be looked at and the poeple that use it can PAY for it!, As I don't feel the tax payers should fund other peoples fun. I have to pay for mine. and this would release additional funds for basicly needs, like street improvements, Water Pressure improvement, and flow enhancements.

Thank you for having these available!

Sorry city not able to fund warming houses for skating.

Probably could even cut the budget here and put it toward other improvments...prioritize what REALLY is important.

Plenty of things going on. Maybe too much.

Please keep all neighborhood parks and hockey rinks open. Even with the new arena it is a wonderful thing for the children to be able to play outside.

Parks are very nice. Cost of programs is too high and umpires should be trained?

Parks & Trails seem well maintained.

Not happy about the process for the ice arena, but it is up and running so lets make it work.

No need to expand them at this time

Need a bench in front of the library, please!

My family enjoys many of the cities parks...NP, Hannah, Roosevelt, Grotto, DeLagoon, Pebble Beach, Broadway, Athletic..all very nice...it's the residents that abuse , litter, disrespect, that are the problem..

Many parks, many programs. Excellent

Love the number of parks in the city, the bike trail, recreational opportunities for youth, etc.

Love our parks whether I use them or not. The green space in our city is beautiful and valuable.

Love having all the different parks to bring our daughter to and enjoy the bike paths!
It would be nice to see more publicity on what is available and how to make reservations if needed

It seems we are taking these quality of life items, and improving the we we deal with them. Money is always short.

I'd like to see a little more development of the Broken Down Dam park. I wish access could be better and the trail could be safer - the steep bank is difficult and appears prone to erosion, poison ivy is perilous along the trail.

I wish Pebble Beach could be opened up again with lifeguards, concessions.

I no longer have children participating on the recreational programs but see how well scheduled and attended they are all summer. They must be doing a lot of things well.

I hope the repair/replacement of the bike trail that runs by Bayview Heights along County Road #1 can be completed in the spring

I have 3 young children and there are 4 parks within walking distance - (We live just to the west of Lake Alice). This is a huge plus - it will be really great to see the work completed around Lake Alice and I hope the plans include good, safe walking areas around the lake. Thanks to the leadership in FF for staying the course and being adamant about making the Lake Alice project go forward - the old naysayers will see that it really helps the city alot. Lake Alice is really the centerpiece of the city both geographically and for walking, etc.

Great parks and programs for kids.

Godel needs a walking and/ or fitness trail. Love the skateboard park that the kids raised money for.

Except if no public pool is going to be available they need to make sure Pebble Beach is open for swimming. Need to remember that not everybody can afford to join Park & Rec activities or the YMCA so the free parks and swimming is vital

Do not use them

As good or better than other cities.

Good

except park restrooms have a lot to be desired

Would like to see the warming houses open again. We DON'T need a water park or some other pie in the sky wet dream to entertain the kids.

would like to see something in this town for families to participate in with younger kids.... pool, water park, inside play area, etc. Also, don't like that there aren't many organized activities for children under 5... tball and soccer don't allow younger than 5 etc.,

Would like to see more opportunities for kids and Lake Alice developed into a recreation destination.

Why does the city have to spend the money they do on the golf course that benefits only a privileged select few of the citizens. I question the amount of money that is planned to be spent on cleaning up Lake Alice. Within a few short years the geese and other wildlife will put it back to the same sad condition it is presently in. It is too bad the controversy over the hockey arena became heated and as a result we ended up with a less desirable facility. I blame the city together with the hockey association for doing a very poor job communicating the need. City council members may have known a great deal but did an absolutely horrible job informing the public. By the time I learned what the real story was, why the city decided to spend the amount they did, there was too strong an anti city feeling to turn things around. The real loss is to the people of Fergus Falls because we could have had a better facility for not too much more money. Whomever was responsible for the bidding fiasco needs a gut check. It did not take a rocket scientist to know ducks were not in a row on soils. There is expertise living in the city that could have done better if asked. The only good thing out of all that is we do have a minimally adequate facility that was badly needed. Keep working on a trail along the Otter Tail River. We have a real asset and somehow we are able to turn it into a real plus and draw for the city.

We're lucky to have so many parks. The river walk needs a little tidying up, and I hated to see the skate park put in best park.

We utilize almost every park in town all year long. Some we choose to stay away from because of older kids that hang out, smoke, swear, deface property etc. i.e., Athletic Park

we need to make cutbacks here. Let private people volunteer to clean up. Too many summer workers for this and we do not have finances in order for this anymore. Let people that want to use this maintain them, focus on what you need to. For a very small town, we have too much to maintain. A whole building and staff for recreational separate from city hall is a waste, redundancy, need cutbacks here.

We need Old Smokey Hill open again, and we need a curling club to keep people busy in the winter!

we need a POOL!!

We have a lot for a small town but it never hurts to have even more offerings for our community members

Very happy with the facilities we use when grandchildren visit. Don't know about the rec programs. Do agree with those who ask for water parks. The city is heavy on providing for hockey, but not so much for family entertainment.

very good for walks

Too bad the hockey crazies bamboozled City Hall into building a new hockey rink: the money would have been better spent on Library expansion.

thought the hocker arena should of went up to vote before taxes go up to fund it.

They could have more activities for younger kids or teenagers and maybe then they wouldn't be getting into so much trouble (drugs, drinking, etc.)

There was a recent letter about a frisbee golf park; I would love to be part of that conversation and get 'er done! Also, get on board with curling...i'd like to take that up! And how about the use of the arena for the summer months...talk about some great opportunity for some new efforts! How about organizing or running some "clubs" for different things? I wonder if the Kiwanis or Lions or Rotary or some other club would want to really take over a park and do something with it....

there should be more activity for kids

There is a good variety of activities for youth and adult to take part in.

There aren't many flowers around the last few years -probablly a cost cutting. It is too bad some businesses or individuals don't take up the slack.

There are PLENTY of offerings/opportunities.

There are many places where the city lets thistles and weeds get out of hand. Wright Park on S. Union is one, the golf course is another.

the only thing that keeps the parks from being excellent is the goose & duck droppings. When I take my grandkids to the parks it's always a concern

The city should invest in the families & children of this town by building a water park. The town of Wahp/Breck. has a water park & I know of numerous families that drive there to use the park (purchasing gas, tickets for the park, & buying snacks-all revenue that we could have). The city should also invest in water rentals for the river (paddle boats, canoes, fishing poles etc.). We have a beautiful resource and it is rarely used.

the city seems to have forgotten the needs of the dd population in regards to summer rec. special olympics have summer activities like bocce ball that winds up with meets or golf. who knows what the city could do with it.

The city needs to start to get rid of sidewalks or start putting in the missing sidewalks. There is an unfair favoritism placed on certain homeowners, businesses, and organizations in town. Not even most of the schools have sidewalk all the way around. Adams should have sidewalk on all four sides so parents could drop their kids off on any street other than Union. It would also be easier for parents with strollers to get to the playground if the sidewalk was on those two sides. The hospital does not have sidewalk on the east side. They also do not have a handicapped-accessible street corner of the sidewalk in front of the new dialysis center. Other schools in town also do not have through sidewalk. There is no sidewalk by Fleet Farm. There is only a partial crossing light by Sun Mart. There is no sidewalk on the north side of the historical society. And, they are putting the sidewalk on the wrong side of Lake Alice. It's a waste of a lot of money. It's just going to be a waste of time and money for the homeowners to take care of that new sidewalk. The car drivers should be focused on the road, not the lake. Those using the lake recreationally are not there to see cars drive by. They are there for the serenity of the lake. The cars destroy that, so the new sidewalk will be just as much wasted space and money as the old sidewalk was. It's unfortunate the homeowners will be required to take care of something that nobody will use. Even mail carriers cut through grass and won't use the sidewalk. Park crews do a great job with the resources they have.

The city must do better with handicap accessibility. No access to the library bathrooms is criminal. Also, some handicap parking spaces have no curb cut for wheelchairs and walkers.

The city has not done much for the park at the NE corner of Lake Alice

Surprised that a city of this size doesn't have a public swimming pool.

still need outdoor pool for kids

Some of the other parks I've been too are great. They are mowed, kept up and just

beautiful.

Programs excellent, facilities fair.

Programs and facilities unbalanced in design and funding toward use by the younger than 20 population, could add programs for working adults and seniors

Pretty good, but there's always room for improvement. I think the city has done a really good job lately in updating the playground equipment and partnering with others as appropriate (service clubs, Home Depot, etc). Let's also make sure we follow the park plan for replacement in neighborhoods where schools are, if those facilities were to leave. In particular, the areas around Adams and McKinley don't have convenient, close access to any city parks - only the school playgrounds.

Parks look great. We have many. Are they all used. Is it actually expensive to have skating rinks open?

parks could use an upgrade

Parks are kept up nicely, would love to see the river walk in better condition. Not sure if this is your jurisdiction

Outdoor skating locations are down from 4 to one. Seems to be retrenching.

Not real crazy about the ARENA/ Hockey stadium/ community center

Not as inclusive as they used to be

Need to keep gang types or duggies away from the riverwalk so it is attractive for visitors

Need to add more non sport activities for our youth. should build a swimming pool/water park instead of another liquor store in one of the deadliest counties in the summer months for DWI related injuries/deaths

Need bike trails that extend to west side of city

Need a dog park.

Makes no sense not to have skating on Lake Alice.

Let's not loose Pebble lake rec. area. Having a swimming area with a "beach" is just priceless. After all, we live in the land of 10000 lakes. what a shame not to be able to swim in one at a "public" beach

keep restrooms updated in parks. (otherwise a great city for children and seniors.)

It is common knowledge that had the citizens of the city had a chance to vote, the ice facility would not have gotten off the ground. This foolish expense is for the benefit of the "upper class" only. Why not a facility that the everyday, working class youth could enjoy? This facility, along with the convention center and others, was rammed through without any chance of the people who will have to pay for it given a chance to vote.

I would only criticize the imposition of higher property taxes to pay for a new skating rink that most citizens would never use. That could have been handled differently like imposing a small fee each time some one used the facility.

I wish part of the RTC grounds could become a park. It's so beautiful there.

I think the park and rec should have weekly article highlighting the activities and results. It would give the sponsors some advertising bang.

I really enjoy the variety of parks and locations of the parks. Especially the one across from the library. I do wish the summer recreation started at ages below 5 or 6yr old. There is not really any thing for younger kids to do in the summer.

I enjoy the nice parks and trails.

I appreciate the new bike path on Cty. 1. I have not been to the parks lately. Our boulevard trees in the city are very attractive.

Heard that we might be getting a water park type area some day in the future. I have seen many parks areound the United States in the different places I have lived. Would love to be on that committee.

Having to move the Skate Park was absolutely ridiculous!!

Has the city thought about a community center for the youth? It doesn't seem there isn't enough activity for the children who aren't good at school sports.

golf course needs improvement because of water damage every yr.

Glad to see Lake Alice being cleaned up.

Fix bike path on Fir/Co. Rd. #1. Then I could ride on it to the new path along Co. Rd. #1.

Delagoon should be used better. Years ago when my children were small we were there all the time, it was packed. They need to bring the slides and life guards back.

Community Arena great addition-Pebble beach good, nice to see you working together with Y

chips at Broadway Park was not a good idea. My kids don't like it as much as the other material that was in there.

BUT many, many people still drive to Breckenridge, MN to make use of their water park. Let's keep that money in Fergus.

Always wished we had an outdoor swimming pool.

Again, goose poop in the parks and football field.

Fair

You built a walking trail from Burger King out toward the golf course. Why do all trails have to be snowmobile trails? Why can't this one be plowed in the winter as a walking trail? Some of us like to walk and not ride snowmobiles.

When I was a kid you could walk a couple blocks from almost anywhere and hit an ice-skating rink. Now, nothing. That's what I feel most sad about. The trails are nice. NP is pretty gross when we have a wet summer but fine when it dries out. I miss the flowers in the park on Union across from the liquor store and Holiday.

We should plan and build a community center similar to what Perham or Detroit Lakes have done. Not only would it serve our community but it would attract other events/visitors to our city.

We need to have life guards at Pebble Beach and warming houses on Lake Alice and Channing Ave and Cleveland Ave

We need more family oriented activities. ie: Waterpark, Modern campground with facilities. Swimming Pool. We travel extensively and camp in other small towns. Our DeLagoon Campground is embarrassing. Beautiful Ball Diamonds, poor campground.

We are still behind many communities of similar or smaller size by way of specific youth baseball fields and a city outdoor swimming pool. I would be willing to pay higher taxes to see these two items developed.

There should be more sidewalks in residential areas. We regularly walk and there are many areas with no sidewalks. It is especially dangerous for children and in the winter. Why do we have to keep ours free from snow (within 24 hours of a snowfall) when some people don't even have any.

there should be a community center and pool and I dont mean a high priced membership to the "Y" - not everyone can afford that ---- I see a lot of other smaller towns that have way more in this regard

The Vine St Park (purple one) is not safe for children to be at. Especially alone. I have found a knife & glass there before. Plus it seems to be a place for teenagers to go & drink & smoke and get away with it.

The parks are nice, and there are bike trails outside of town, but in the city there aren't safe biking trails.

The parks are kind of gross.

The Legion baseball field has been neglected. this was once a premier facility, it is time to take pride in that facility and make the playing field top-notch you need a caretaker that has pride in the game not 16or 17yr old temp help for summer they don't care

The Legion baseball field has been neglected. this was once a premier facility, it is time to take pride in that facility and make the playing field top-notch you need a caretaker that has pride in the game not 16or 17yr old temp help for summer they don't care

The Golf course is still not run as most Municipals just have discounted round for members, not golf all summer for a set price. Have your money man calculate how many rounds are equal to the membership fee. This will show that a lot of these members play for "Free" from about mid july until the end of season. Now calculate the lost revenue, just look at the tee time books the money drain is in black & white.

Summer programs need a better way to communicate make-up/rain out days. We had a lot and it got VERY confusing towards the end. On the positive side... all the coaches were great with the kids!!!

some recreational programs not run that well

Shoould have a swimming pool. most cities half this size have one

recreation is good until you turn 12 then what to do? it cost money and most of the time you cant use the bathrooms cause either locked ,dont work ,no toilet paper or running water to wash hands. parks use to have flowers even the city hall one did, what happiened to them?oh ya you got a hockey arena! my dad would roll over in his grave if he could see what fergus falls looks like and offer today sorry to be so judgemental but thats my opinion. DO WHAT YOU CAN TO BRING THE FUN AND ATTRACTIVENESS TO THIS CITY

Price of city rec programs is too high

Playgrounds could use more attention during the summer - Clean up and maintenance

Parks are not being maintained; the picnic areas at the north ends of Lake Alice have been abandoned; no attempt to control the weeds in those lawns. Keeping the warming houses open, such as at Lake Alice would be inexpensive and add much to kids' recreation in tow. Parks and trails are great. Programs available and things to do and shopping and dining are absolutely terrible. I think it ridiculous the amount of money spent for the hockey arena to pamper the few and would have wished a much lower amount for SUBSIDIZING a hockey arena and then taking the rest of the money (half?) to build something for the average child in this town who has no interest or cannot afford to be in hockey.

not enough through town trails for bikes, dont feel safe riding on roads as motorists are unaware or dont care about your right to use streets as they do. plus roads are very rough.

No new money allocated for significant repair/replacement of facilities in years. Many parks need new bathroom facilities.

need more for kids to do. Rich kids have lake homes and pools...average people have?

narrow down the parks and make those better!

My daughters are 22 and 24 and when they were very young they couldn't understand why there wasn't a swimming pool for them to go to. They still wonder why.

It would be nice to have a dog park.

It seems as if the Golf Course gets the best treatment. We definately need to address this warming house issue for the recreational skater and the youth factor. We, they are not all hockey players and/or in organized activities. Please do something to get these warming houses open.

I was very disappointed las winter when all the outdoor ice rinks were shut down due to budget reasons but somehow we still have the budget to build a huge new ice arena. Also when the outdoor arenas were closed the city still had lights on at them at night, if it's closed and no one can use it why keep it lit since we were trying to save money?

I need to add: This town needs a outdoor pool/waterpark for the family!! Every parent I talk too agrees on this matter and we all go over to Wahp & Breck to enjoy their two centers. This has always been an ongoing subject and nothing ever seem to get done about it but yet we are able to get a new ice arena for those that are able to afford hockey and ice skating or chose to do those sort of activities.

I am a family with young children (aged 2 and 4) and I was going to take my children to the park and we drove to 5 different ones to finally find one that was appropriate for them to play at. The older kids were ruining it by with way that they were acting (making out, inappropriate climbing on the equipment) so we had to find a different place because i don't want my young children witnessing that type of activity. The police need to step up and control that type of behavior or something that way it can still be fun for the younger ones who do like going on that type of stuff.

How about paying attention to the residents and their neighborhoods. Where are the trails! Where are the walkable areas?

goose droppings in several parks, how sanitary is NP park when it floods many times over summer? There should be better signage to find parks and trails.

get the geese out, can't take kids to parks with all the feces around, would like to see more money put into water activities (either open an indoor water park or keep improving Pebble Lake Beach)

Existing facilities are fine. This town needs a public pool/water slide.

everything looks good

COULD USE MORE UPKEEP

Bigger city campgrounds,golf course and club house need help

Athletic park is becoming quite the hang out for some rough stuff, not real safe to go there. Could be more walking and bike trails. Fergus Falls could use a dog park.

A public pool would be nice....

A city pool would be really great.

Poor

what happen warming house, what happen to summer crafts for kids

What besides a skate park do we have to offer our youth that is affordabole to a middle to low income family.....nothing. Other then the Senior Center what does this city offer our Seniors?.....Nothing.

we should be using our natural surroundings better.

We have some great parks, but nothing going on in them, a city pool would be great!

We could really use more places for children to play. There is 2 city parks. Yet we have how many assisted living facilities. How about nuturing the children whom are the future.

Unless you play hockey or golf the parks have deteriorated. What trails?

This city will tell you there is no money for lifeguards so kids can swim at Pebble Lake and then turn around and give money to a golf course and build an 8 million dollar hockey arena.

The neighborhood parks are a mess. Outhouses rather than bathrooms. Lake Alice skating rink gone. Where are the city trails the citizens want?

The kids are leaving nothing for them to do in this town. Should make that mall into like a recreation area ie go carts, mini golf, and or arcade.

The city only cares about the rich, it needs to have something for EVERYONE!!!!

Taxpayers responded to an earlier survey and the results indicated that taxpayers favored updating the city library over building a new ice arena. A city library is available, free of charge, for all citizens. For the city's complete disregard of the taxpayer's wishes, I must rate our city leader's quality of providing programs and facilities as POOR.

swimming lessons cost too much for only 4-5 days of lessons....the instructors need to get in the water and show the kids....can not learn all required in that short of time....used to be two weeks...should go back to that for the amount a person pays....you could easily pay \$70.00 because almost always your kid won't pass first time as levels get harder

parks should be for all residents not favoritism as to who lives next to them

Not enough things for the youth and young adults. The ones who play church league softball on Monday and Tuesday nights. All the teams wanna play on Monday night so then its not fair for the ones who are going out there just for fun. It always seems to be the same teams winning every year. They need to even it out based on the number of teams that there are and if they are always winning force them to move up to the next higher level league. Talk to the umpires so that they don't play there favorites based on there religion or which church they attend. (strikes and ball need to be called the same) Also if the opposing team is beating the other team by a big score margin it shouldnt be up the umpire or the team that is winning or the crowds to make fun of the team that is losing.

Need to bring back the winter rec. activities since most of our year is winter. Especially miss the Lake Alice skating rink. Need to bring back supervised warming huts and Old Smokey sled hill. Need community skating opportunities at new hockey rink and increased hours for community swim at high school pool.

Need more things for the youth and young adults to keep them off the streets and vandizing things. The park softball program is disgusting. There is alot of favoritism played out there with the umpires. They need to open more ice rinks so for the ones who don't want the competition can go and skate for fun or just pass the puck around.

Need a swimming pool!!!! A place outside for all ages to use. Seeing teens jumping off the "Rock" at the Hoot Lake Plant is pathetic. Someone is going to get injured, there's no supervision, there's arguments and fights. Why drive to Breckenridge or Wahpeton? Give teens a place to go or have a job at a pool.

I would love to ***** the guys that feel that the 75 kids and 1/2 a dozen businesses that bennifit from a new hockey areana

FF has parks and trails, but the least expensive and most accessible to the greatest number of people is missing: public sidewalks.

facilities are ok but severly lacking on a focus of youth. Similar size communities provide many more alternatives for youth. ex: we live in the middle of lake country and have no decent swimming area. Pebble beach has been cut to the bone and upkeep and amentaties of the beach sorely lacking.

DeLaGoon is a ***** Mosquito breeding ground. Fergus should look at Perham's comunity center and Breckenridges' water park. BUT NOOOO WE HAVE TO BUILD A ***** HOCKEY ARENA THAT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WILL USE!!!!

city has quantity over quality in facilities

A city dog park would be nice, youth activties lack (Such as a city pool) Stay away from facilities that only touch 5-10% of the population (ICE ARENA!!!) This is probably the 2nd most important area to work on for attracting people to the area, 1st being quality/quantity of jobs.

Other Comments

Very fine in our opinion

too expensive and they do not do a good job of keeping participants informed

Superb

Not to bad, but need more organized activities for younger children (3,4, & 5). There are many who can't afford too pay full price for programs so they don't put their kids in. How about a sliding fee or are the activities for those who have lots of monies?

Bathroom are always in need of more checking on, but realize we have people to disrespect everything.

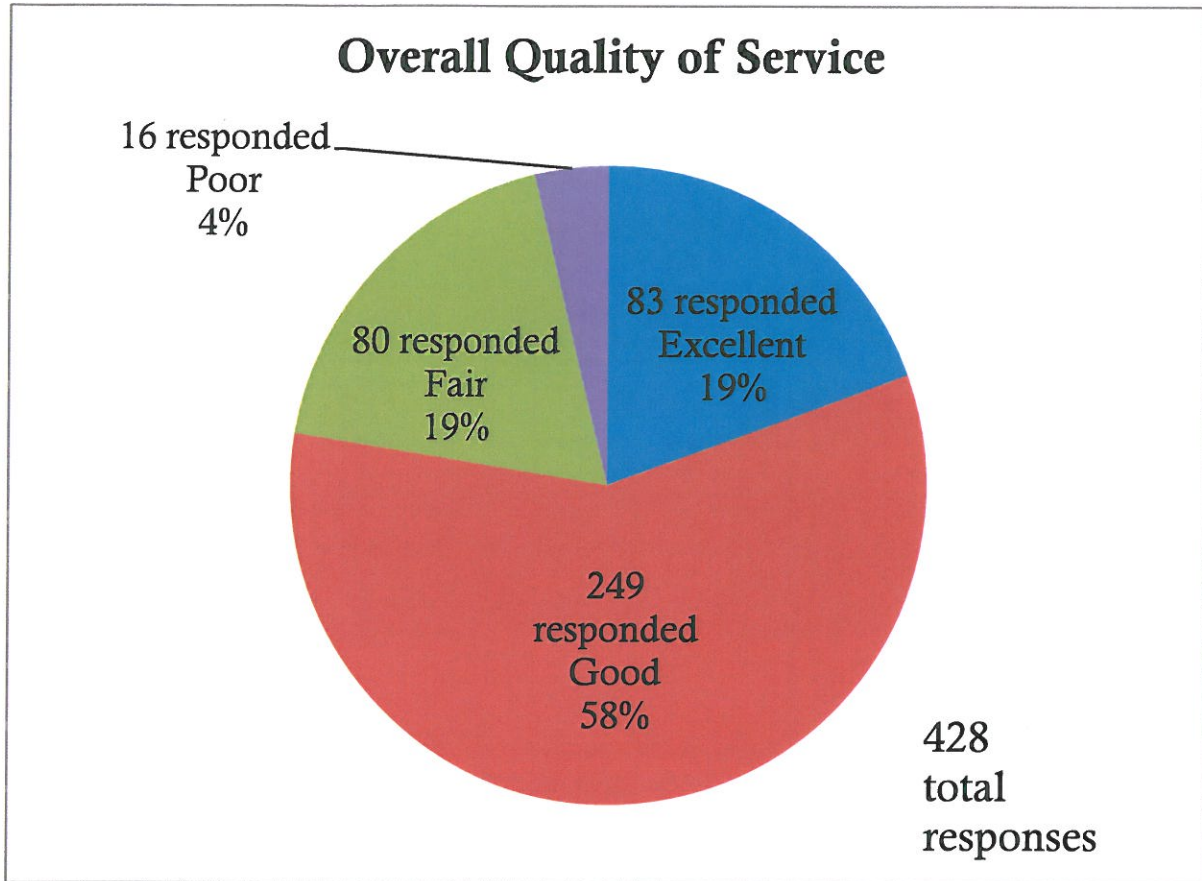
What about the library? I don't use any of the Rec. programs except for the concerts in the park put on by the Center 4 the Arts. The bathrooms in that park could be better.

The majority of people did not want that damn ice arena. City council did not listen and voted yes on it anyway. Now we are stuck with yet another unnecessary expense through more sales tax in the middle of a recession for something only the ice hockey crowd wants.

Non-participant

I don't go to the parks or trails very often, so I don't know much about them. I have driven past where the Angel Park will be, it might be nice when it gets done, but I'm dissapointed that it is being built so close to the Otter, and that if I remember right there used to be some stuff for kids to play on that was taken out. To me the park is big enough that the Angel Park didn't need to be where it is.

City of Fergus Falls Survey Results- October 2011



Excellent Comments Were Generally About:

Quality services
Fergus Falls is a good place to live

Good Comments Were Generally About:

Keep taxes at a reasonable level
Need to keep community moving forward- retain and attract new residents

Fair Comments Were Generally About:

Keep spending/taxes in line
Keep up with maintenance
Keep the wants/needs of the majority of the public in mind

Poor Comments Were Generally About:

Need for more retail
Requests for more family activities

Please see attached pages for all comments provided

How would you rate the overall quality of services provided by the city?

Excellent

we think it is beautiful

We moved here 31 years ago because we liked the city

There are some areas that could be better, but overall I would need to say excellent. Areas that are poor are the ones along the river off of Stanton Avenue.

The trees in the summer are awesome, and I think most people keep their lots/places looking great.

The City is Very pretty

People seem to take pride in our city appearance, and public employees appear to work hard to make Fergus attractive.

People seem to have more pride in maintaining their homes and yards. City encourages civic pride.

No matter what season of the year the drive down Lincoln Ave. is so beautiful

Love the trees!

Love the trees

Love all the trees

Lots of green space and well maintained

Like most of my friends, I think it's beautiful

It has always been an attractive city, and visitors comment on that.

I think you do an excellent job of providing many wonderful services to the citizens... I am very impressed at how many people get involved with the many organizations and non-profits.

great parks

Few cities can measure up to Fergus Falls during the summer & fall seasons.

Fergus is beautiful.

Fergus Falls is one of the nicest, smaller cities in Minnesota - appearance-wise that I know of. Northfield is possibly the best but that is due primarily to the number of local businesses that exist (and are due to) based on the college populations in that city (St. Olaf/Carleton). Appearance-wise, FF is just as nice.

compared to some others

cleanliness is very good and trees are outstanding

Clean and neat has been characteristic of the way residents have cared for their properties. Appearance has been important to the City so funds are allocated to hire good help who takes good care of parks, roads, trees and appearances in general.

Beautiful well kept city

Beautiful city with lots of trees; many, many "friendly" people; the city is kept very clean including the streets (although many of the streets are in need of repair); Many churches and parks. People seem to take pride in Fergus.

All our out-of-town visitors can't get over how well the residents of the city maintain their properties and businesses. Even our "slum" areas look good compared to some moderate class neighborhoods in similar cities.

A very beautiful community

Good

You need to have questions regarding the library as well. A great resource not mentioned in your survey. Please add on to the space there-it is needed NOW!

Would like to see the city better support long standing businesses in town. Make tax incentives available to those besides large companies moving into the city. Those businesses that have been stable and supporting the community for year are many times left to fend for themselves when looking to expand their facilities. And when monies are available there are so many hoops to jump through it is more risk and work than it is worth.

would like to see a once a year boulevard pickup of trash items

Workers trying their best, they need more resources.

Wonderful place to live.

With a young council where much energy has been spent on the hockey situation, and the interest in golf, there seems to be a neglect of a great portion of our population, our youth. what services? Those that include sending out staff to tell people to move signs off boulevard, but city staff has signs on boulevard on their own home? Staff sent out to measure people's grass to send out a fine? ? Ones that have been told business signs on Union should be removed from boulevard, and after 4 phone calls and 4 years they still have them there? Services that keep raising our taxes and costs? Ones that keep touting that although our country, state, and city are having financial issues we have the nerve to say we have not laid off anyone? Truly, you cannot find ANY employees or ANY redundancy at all? We have all needed to take a hard look at our budgets and make better choices, and the city has NOT done that. City services which include our mayor and city council spending money on a hockey arena, without consent, and with major concern from MANY did it anyway? I say lets cut back those people that said we are too ill-informed and stupid to let us decide for such a HUGE financial issue as that.

we need to spray for mosquitoes and knats!!!!!!! Charge residents a few dollars/mo in the summer months

We need a mayor and city council who ACTUALLY listen to the people. They do not!!!!!!!

We are enjoying Fergus Falls. Thanks for doing this survey, I encourage you to take the results seriously and don't be afraid to change priorities or outlooks based on the results of the survey.

Way too much emphasis on police services in an already safe city with no emphasis on new library. People visit our library facility on their own, the police department is not a destitution. Republican and empire building mentality.

They would be even better if department heads - hired for their expertise - were relied on by the micro-managing Council. We are due some replacements!

They do pretty good for the conditons they have to work with. If I call to complain people have gotten very defensive. I called about street cleaning a few years ago, later the street cleaner came down the middle of the street and left. He did not clean by either curb. I got the message!

There should be spring clean up pick-up by the city. There should be more STS service at the landfill in the fall(to open and dump leaf bags)

The regional treatment center seems to be a white elephant hanging around the cities neck that seems to be going no where. I remember taking a tour about five years and was led to believe the city had someone ready to go to upgrade the old nurses cottage and yet today not one new nail is pounded. Someone in the city led too many people to believe something would actually happen. Something does need to be done to save the Kirkbride. I realize it needs to make economical sense but somehow can't help but think some type of deal can be made. The entire property that was the state hospital is too nice to just let it go cheaply to someone and not be developed for something that can benefit the city. The pipe dream of a Chinese nurses college never made sense to me and thought a lot of money was spent giving too many people an all expense paid vacation trip to China. We do not have a real appreciation for some of the historical things in the city. I realize it takes money but somehow some of the money that is spent around town could sure be improved on. We do not always use some of the buildings such as the old high school and fully use them to the end of their useful life expectancy. Paying 1.2 million for the property to put a deluxe police station across the street from city hall seems excessive. The only good thing is the previous property owner hit the big time jackpot on that one. In spite of all the negative comments that can be made we do have have an excellent city we can be proud of and can be proud we live here.

The dump hours do not work well for working people who work later in the day and on Saturday.

The County Zar is ripping us off on recycle fees because he spends money like a drunken sailor and I think the city should investigate charges on city utility bills. They sell that stuff.

The city waste disposal site should be open all day on Saturday year round. Most citizens work Mon-Fri and have a hard time getting there when it is open. Perhaps the weekday hours could be cut to allow for more time on Saturday.

The city needs to engage with the residents alot of personal agenda versus listening to the people there is a lack of big picture planning

thank you

Terrible shopping and marketing city!! Also, in our area, there are too many dogs running loose and barking.

Taxes are very high. Out of sight

Taxes are not addressed here even though the survey listed that subject on top. We feel our property value is listed as greater then what we could ever sell it for. Our councilman has been out twice but to no avail.

Sometimes think too many people on jobs and a lot of standing around time.

Small towns like Barnesville and Rothsayspray for mosquitoes in the summer why not

Fergus Falls?

Since the city reaps the rewards from selling recyclables, why do we also get charged for recycling on our city bill?

See above comments about parks and warming houses.

Pretty good overall. Kudos to all of you!

Please go forward with a Library expansion. We need it.

Overall very good. Taxes are what they need to be

Overall great job. The city does what they can to keep the cost of living in FF affordable. Our basics are covered very well. Could improve by providing more for young families.

No matter how good the services are there is a need to work on upgrades and improvements

Need a proper animal control officer- loose and unleashed dogs and cats are a real problem in this city (and I have lived in a lot of cities) with animal poo all over in the down town parks. Keep working on a use for that old Treatment center it really is an incredible building and really adds to the city's historical value. The library needs some funding as well. They have stated that they need to expand. If the facilities are used that much then we need to expand our library.

Many towns have a community center for children/teens that would be something to look into.

Library could use an expansion.

keep up the good work

It may be possible to reduce levels of service in certain areas to reduce overall costs to the taxpayer

If you know about them. I do think there could be better communication about services to newcomers.

I would say excellent to above but, I believe having to pay a recycling fee every month is wrong. Can't the city make up for this fee by the collection of aluminium? I think there is enough access to recycling in the city limits, or those that want the curb-side pick up could opt for the services (the elderly, disabled, etc).

I would mark excellent, but the roads are a hot button for me.

I wasn't sure where to put this but the taxes are too high!!!!

I think there do a good job with the resources that they have.

I think single apartments... where the owner lives on site... should be exempt from rental registration.

I think our city is making some positive strides in building it's future.

I think how the ice arena was shoved down the publics throat was terrible. Here again this will be something that only those with money will be able to use yet the poor will pay for it. Make darn sure that the sales tax is dropped when it should be & not move the tax over to pay for something else. The state of MN started the State sales tax way back when I was a kid. The tax was only .005 and that tax was also supposed to be dropped yet we still have it and it is now .07. I would hate to see this same thing happen here in Fergus

I think city government is to big and taxes are to high...still fuming about the hockey arena pushed on taxpayers.

I really like the recycling service.

I love Fergus Falls! People who complain that there is "nothing to do" only have to help volunteer somewhere for a day, and they would meet new people with new ideas.

I hope the city does not allow politics to change things...I want honest and caring people working for us and making decisions for us.

I don't think this is a good time to build a new monument to the police department. This adds nothing to the city. Fix the streets first. Buy some new Christmas street decorations or a nice public beach or swimming pool. Something to attract visitors.

I do have to take issue with the plastic trash cans used in place of dumpsters which were more roomy.

Generally good but it is past time for the public library expansion. This should be the next city priority after the new police station.

Fergus is a nice place to raise little kids and beautiful. I wish there was a pool, and I wish the public ice-skating rinks would open back up. There are a few streets that could use a top layer of asphalt and it would be nice if the city counsel could get a few higher-paying jobs in the area, but for what it's worth, I plan on raising my children here and hope they will stay put when they grow up and start their families.

Fergus is a nice place to live...however it's the most expensive place I've lived tax wise. Over my 40+years of working and owning a home, I have lived in nice places in S.Dak., N.Dak and now Minn...Fergus and Minn is by far the most expensive tax wise for services.

Fergus Falls is a great city that I am personally glad to call home :)

except for the inability to have a say in the ice arena.....now that's a whole other story!

don't know if we are getting are monies worth from the public works dept. It previous yrs. it was good.

City services are good. I just wish our city had more hope for the future. Our mall is declining slowly, yet our city does nothing to help increase the economic vitality.

City has a long way to go to come up to similar standard as in Alexandria. Promote more businesses to move here. Give them tax breaks!

Can't trust the city council majority. In the pockets of special interest groups looking for handouts at expense of others.

By-and-large, always have positive experiences. From my experience, city staff are well-trained, knowledgeable and professional in their dealings with citizens.

Before I close, I wish to comment on City-wide cleanup which is done in Moorhead and Fargo. People who cannot afford the dump, clean their yard and property of unsightly junk and make the city look better. Makes a significant difference. Locals say FF use to do it but quit - how about reconsidering and cleaning up the junk all around town.

all but water pressure on the south side. we need a tower to give us the proper pressure. all the reservoirs are on the north side of the city.

access to landfill is sometimes difficult

Fair

would be nice to get the trees that have dutch elm to be cut down sooner because the dead branches do a lot of damage to personal property when they fall on your car not cool

why isn't recycling available to residents of apartments and manufactured parks, who pay for those services with their rent?

Where is the part about taxes as listed in the flyer that came out? Prop. Taxes: TOO HIGH!! Especially when living on a city lake that is being turned into a slough by all the pumping of overly fertilized water.

What about adding on to the library--it could really use it!! Find a way to add it to the sales tax--extend the length-talk to the state legislature. Get it done!!!

We would love to see an improved/more comprehensive recycling system and a community pool!!!

We need to spray for mosquitoes in the summer!

Water and sewer rates too high for what is charged for one person

The services that are listed here are good, but the city is writing checks that we can not cash. forcing through ice area that the people did not want, now police station, they are not understanding that the country and state citizens are broke and can not afford this. By the way, if the old ice area was so bad, how come they are going to use it for curling?

The police dept is very poor when it come to routine patrol work.

The employee's should remember that the taxpayers are paying their wages. So, do a good Job all the time, Because WE ARE WATCHING YOU.

The city is being built as a shopping center for people that live outside of town, and the residents are being ignored.

stop picking up recycling every week and charge me less. or charge garbage and recycling on a per person in a household basis. I live in a house by myself and dont make enough gabage to fill the can for a month. silly for me to pay the same as a household with a full family. and not fair.

Spenny on the billing every month.

Should be a yearly free pickup of discarded items from the boulevard to be hauled to the dump

Recycling truck does not come down our street.

Recycling and and Garbage services are rigid in there pricing. Is there potential for bi-weekly pickup or more incentives for recycling and reducing garbage? From my perspective recycling is a mandatory expense to the water bill, I don't want to look at it that way. I would like to think that I save money by recycling and reducing the amount I place in the garbage container... possibly by receiving incentive for not requiring a garbage pickup once or twice a month.

Poor or non-response by City staff and Council to citizen in-put

Police and Fire, refuse and snow removal would be rated excellent. I feel we need more attention to our parks and forestry. Buckthorne trees are overtaking our city. Lake Alice area needs major attention to the two islands destroyed by the egrets and cormorants. City rec. needs to support more winter activities--could have AmeriCorps volunteers plan and staff winter activities. We cannot afford to lose the beautiful Kirkbride building. Neglect of buildings on the site has been a travesty. The beautiful small stone cottage has been allowed to go to ruin..a major loss for the city. We need renewed energy and innovative, practical ideas to develop the remaining buildings before it is too late. If they are allowed to go to ruin, I hope the city will allow local residents to reclaim some of the beautiful woodwork and fixtures before implosion.

our street is not very well maintained. Cleaning crews never get the leaves out of the gutters. In fact they pushed a big pile of leaves up to our corner a week ago and left them there. Still there. The same goes for snow.

Move to the country where you can enjoy life.

More businesses in town would be perfect. People would not feel forced to leave town to shop.

Miss the weekly pickup of branches, bags of leaves, & other misc that was available at my last location. (I moved here from Williston, ND)

Lawn clippings should be picked up as some of us don't have a way to get it to the landfill and our population is older in FF. Should also have a clean up week in the Spring.

Later date for leaf pick-up. Pay for garbage pick-up only if container is put out

It sucks for those who live here, but is pretty good for those who live outside of town, like the staff

it seems like it provides what it has too...the bare minimum. The average person has no voice or representation.....lost faith in government after the Ice Arena issue. Average people are great.....city government leaves much to be desired!

In prior city I lived in City garbage was privatized which was less expensive because of choices. Would FF ever consider privatizing?

I see a lot of waste due to poor supervisors and lack of communication . We should hire from within the city and not people who are Resume builders and don't have a clue about the city and don't care!!

I say fair only because of the city council's approach to the ice arena issue and above comments regarding setting priorities that the majority of voters do not want.

I feel that this city is centered around elderly people. I am in the 25-30 year old age range and I do not feel that this city is suiting for a person of my age. Being a fairly new resident of Fergus Falls, I find myself having a hard time acquainting myself here. This town is very conservatitive and I feel like I am an "outsider." And, being a person who loves to shop, there is not alot to offer here. I think we need more clothing shops that are affordable, such as Kohl's. There are a ton of space that are vacated at the mall...I don't understand why we can't have a variety of stores there.

I am absolutley sick about having the HOCKEY ARENA shoved down our throats ---- the library is more widely used and a community pool / center would be more widely used ----- shame on the city for not putting this expenditure up for a vote in the first place hockey areana, yet no community pool ? that god I'm not planning on retirement here. Just to expensive.

for the must part its a good city to raise an eldery person cause thats all there is retirement homes and nursing homes.

Don't like the tree on my yard planted by the city Messy - drop seeds in July branches when ever there is a wind and are the last ones to drop their leaves Mid November- the city pick up has already picked up leaves. Think we need lawn debris pickup once a month April-Nov and recycle the other 3 weeks. I like the canopy trees or color(maple) trees better than what I have on West 100 block of Cherry..

doing what you can but needs big improvement

do your jobs objectively not as to who or how long residents have lived here

could use some customer service lessons on just being nice. not all but there are a few

City council needs to stop the building and use existing structures, maybe police in the old reserve center, the central location bull! the squads are patrolling what difference where they start from? Maybe look at who is in the Library that is not sharing the taxes and bill the county for services to their residents?

Citizens and businesses are operating with less and tightening budgets. The city needs to do the same. Keep the actual effective employees and get rid of the fluff. Many services have been contracted in the past and likely in a retracting economy should be again.

Canadian Thistle is a noxious weed (on the city, county and state levels) that is suppose to be dealt with; however, I see it growing within the city limits in many locations, road ditches and vacant lots etc.

But too much is put on none productive expenses that only benefit a few. A lot of the present expenses coming up are not needed at this time. The city can get along with what they have until more of the residents are working, Senior citizens are now on a reduced income that is not coming back for a long time and can not afford additional taxes, levies, and what ever you call it pay for stuff that is not critical for the city to run. When the economy picks up that when be the time to consider the proposed items.

a very one sided survey

A city that does not invest in it's infrastructure needs: roads, police station; and instead invests \$6,000,000 in an ice arena to be built and used by a select few over the infrastructure needs is not providing quality for their taxpayers.

Poor

We need jobs that pay a wage other than \$7.50 per hour and part time. Cannot support a family on part-time work

They are wanting more money every year. They always wanna build new buildings and yet there are buildings to be used without building new.

There needs to be something more to do for the youth in this town.

There needs to be more free things for the youth and families to do so they stay out of trouble and have things to do. It was really sad when they took the rollerskating arena away. That was always a popular place. Also when pirates den go taken away. Both very fun things to do.

The ability of the city council to work together as a team is obviously not a strength.

Poor. Poor. Poor.

need more for the young to do...not just hockey arena...there are other things that could help out if not interested in that sport....

need more businesses in town – retail

I truly believe we have a narrow minded city council who only cares about an elite group of our citizens, If you are a normal Joe with out doubt your opinions or needs do not matter.

garage is expensive esp price charged at apts. Why would an apt pay \$50 some for water and garbage. It should be less when it is one big dumpster. You need to re-evaluate the recycling fees. Leaves: OCT 26 pickup?? there is still many leaves on the trees. another leaf pick is needed this year. Would like to see spring clean up

city leaders not looking at the whole picture

A person would have more things to do in a ghost town than in Fergus Falls Minnesota.

Other Comments

Water/sewer prices are waaayyy to high

This survey does not go nearly far enough. After watching the council and staff, in my opinion many changes need to be made. The City Administrator does not do a good job and his job could easily be eliminated or he should be replaced. The Council needs to be replaced unless they start to listen to the citizens of Fergus Falls. How can Kent Mattson represent so many different entities without having a conflict of interest? Watchinig the Council meetings is frequently embarrassing as the members stumble and fumble and don't seem to have a clue as to what they are doing. The city attorney doesn't seem to know what is is donig either. Why do staff mebers go into closed meetings/ Shouldn't it be just just members who are able to vote? Why doesn't the City give the public updates on their marketing efforts for the RTC? Is the city doing anything? Does anyone at the city have any idea what the public perception is of our city leaders?

Taxes are too high

Taxes are getting too high for senior citizens

Speed limit is too fast and the road is too hilly on the bypass road by Cullens. The incline and entrance to MState is a safety concern

Other then the city council they are good

Once again the city doesn't get it (relate to its citizens). Not everyone knows how and even owns a computer. How are they supposed to participate?

Hope to have continued funding for Pebble Lake lifeguard- it is a wonderful program. Lucky to live in Fergus Falls

Don't Know

what services?

Trim trees that block traffic signs and obstruct view of intersetions, and signs on stores downtown. They ceate dangerous rises in the sidewalks!!

This question seems overbroad -- is this supposed to incorporate what was already answered?

not understanding what the specific services are

If your talking strictly city services, probably fair, if your talking what do we do to attract people to our community poor,

where was the question on taxes ? I would really like to comment on that.

Where can money be saved? Everyone's budget is being squeezed. Please be stingy with it. For the next 10 years or so focus on maintenance and not so much on new construction and expansion unless it will pay "for itself." This tax increment financing tool is getting too carried away. Someone has to pay for the difference and it ends up being existing property owners in some way. The state cannot afford the elaborate LGA system started by Wendy Anderson years ago. The money falling out of trees like manna are over and may not ever come back. Plan accordingly.

We don't need any more services. The services we have are GREAT.

The city employees are very customer oriented...

Thank you for all the hard work you do..each and every one...

Taxes are too high. We did NOT need an ice arena!

Projects like arena and library expansion should be at least partially funded by those benefitting who live outside city limits. Property taxes should be kept as low as possible.

Thanks.

Overall everything is excellent but I would sacrifice a few things to keep taxes down. Do the police really need a new station, does the city need a new library? I can't understand why they do but many want both.

One of the reasons we choose to live here is because of the quality services we receive. no complaints.

Need to review all practices and delete the over spending on items like Storm Sewer drain fees, Mowing huge acres of grass, that require additional spendatures on equipment and labor, Its time to make the Ottertail Recylce a business of its own and stop subsidising this structure. Better schedule the people we have in the city snow removal department to get the job done when it needs to be done. The County has the HWY 1 opened up for snow, hours before our city trucks do? The PORT AUTHORITY should be voted on by the public at the next possible electon to review its working in the best interest of the people of FF or its own narrow minded selfish needs at the expense of others!

Liquor store pricing in Fergus Falls is much higher than in Fargo

Keep taxes to a minimum - thanks....

It's pretty awesome to have lived in this city my entire grown-up life and NEVER have had even one complaint! You're doing a wonderful job and that's a big reason we stay here. Now if we could just get some more retail stores in the mall and downtown.... Best of luck and thanks for everything you do -- including surveying the residents of the city of Fergus Falls.

I'm surprised there isn't a question about our garbage/recycling pickup. They do a great job.

I would love to see the city put in a roundabout where 210 and pebble lake road intersect. I have seen them work very effectively in other communities. They keep traffic moving and even have a level of notoriety that out of towners will appreciate, all without the high cost of running signal lights.

I think the city has done a great job in a very budget constrained period of time. The biggest item I would like to see is more economic development in the way of restaurants, small businesses (great progress has been made in this area the last couple years for certain - El Tequila's, The Spot, Cafe 116, FF Baking Company and others are all really great for the town and we shop at these often. The more the better and it will continue to draw more people from outside the city in.

I have always been glad to be living here, even though I'm not sure we needed the hockey rink.

I am happy to have raised my family here.

Hope the city council keeps looking for the long range and not cut corners that will be regretted.

great city to live in.

For "other" comments, it'd be nice if we had a collection day or two for getting rid of computer monitors, TVs, electronics, even if we had to pay a small fee. Recently I've seen a couple towns doing it so your donation for disposal/recycling goes toward charitable organizations.

Fergus Falls is a wonderful place to live.

Every person working garbage detail on streets or in landfills deserves a BIG raise.

Compared to other, larger cities we have lived in, Fergus Falls is a great place to live.

City should enforce noise ordinance/vehicles with noisy mufflers are tolerated