

Introduction

As part of the City’s process to update the Comprehensive Plan, the project team engaged the public to provide feedback during several stages of development. To begin outreach, residents received a survey via multiple online platforms to provide initial feedback. The feedback from this survey provided the City with guidance at their first Steering Committee meetings. A Pop-Up event, held at the Children’s Fair, introduced more of the general public to the project, and provided information on the timeline and how residents can stay involved. Economic development stakeholder interviews were conducted throughout the process to gain input that could be used to inform the desired economic strategy. The public meeting in December of 2019 assembled specific feedback on plan elements from attendees. Residents engaged in activities to provide feedback on community values, guiding principles, and implementation strategies. These engagement opportunities ensure the Comprehensive Plan reflects the vision of Grand Rapids residents.

Following is a description of each public engagement event:

Engagement Event 1: Community Survey

Purpose

The project team distributed a survey to Grand Rapids residents in early 2019 to gather feedback on both the existing and future character of the City. The purpose of the survey was to:

- Classify the quality of existing development, growth, and transportation
- Identify the types of development, growth, and transportation desired by residents
- Locate areas of success and potential improvement for the future
- Identify factors most important to residents now and in the future

Summary

The survey reached residents through social media, newspaper ads, email and word of mouth, with a total of 544 responses. The survey included twenty seven questions, asking residents to rank or identify both existing and future conditions of:

- Type and location of development
- Type and quality of transportation
- Type and quality of housing
- Quality and desired recreational spaces
- City values

Detailed responses to the survey can be found in the attachment, with the following being identified as overall trends:

- The City would benefit from more neighborhood scale retail and restaurants
 - Preferred areas of development were Downtown, the Riverfront area from 7th to Blandin, and the Former Kmart site on Highway 169 S
- Workforce growth is one of the City’s greatest obstacles
- Most residents currently use a personal motor vehicle for transportation, but would prefer to utilize walking, biking, ride share, bus, or train in the future
- Revitalizing housing in existing neighborhoods should take priority over new development
 - If new development is to occur, single family and senior active living are preferred

- There is a desire for alternative playground types in the city, including indoor, adventure, and natural playgrounds.
- The most valued park/place/space in the City is the Reif Performing Arts Center
- The most positive aspects of the City are the small-town feel, proximity to nature, and sense of community
- Better taxes and more shopping options would improve the City

Engagement Event 2: Pop Up Event

Purpose

A Pop-Up event, held on April 27th at the Children’s Fair at the IRA Civic Center, introduced a larger segment of the community to the project. The purpose of the event was to:

- Engage the public and inform them of the steps Grand Rapids will be taking to update their Comprehensive Plan
- Introduce the Comprehensive Plan schedule, explain chapters of the plan, discuss who will use the plan, and determine milestones
- Identify ways to stay involved throughout the planning process, including the community survey
- Engage with event participants and gather feedback on the future of Grand Rapids

Summary

The Children’s Fair attracts a large group of Grand Rapids and regional residents to enjoy a day of learning, activities and information sharing. The Grand Rapids 2040 Comprehensive Plan was among the booths set up in the IRA Civic Center for the day.

Throughout the event, city and consultant staff engaged with residents as they visited the booth, sharing an overview of the Comprehensive Plan and the various engagement techniques. A one page overview of the plan was distributed, which included a link to the community survey. Staff was able to discuss the plan with visitors and steal a few moments of their time to hear about their desires for the future. The event had a tropical theme, so staff had leis on hand to hand out to residents and coloring books to engage children.



Engagement Event 3: Economic Development Stakeholder Interviews

Purpose

The economic development stakeholder interviews were held throughout the spring and summer of 2019 to gather strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats for economic development in Grand Rapids. The interviews were held as individual discussion with the consultant team.

Summary

A total of 17 interviews were held to gather feedback from a range of stakeholder groups. The information gathered during these meetings was used to inform the content of Chapter 6 – Economic

Development. The list below outlines the individuals that were interviewed during this phase. An overview of the economic development summary is provided following the survey results.

Interviewee	Representing
Anderson, Keith	Anderson, Ophoven & Stauffer, PA
Duchesneau Jr, Ron "Skip"	DW Jones Management, Inc. (
Foster, Tom	ASV Holdings, Inc. (mfgr)
Fredrickson, Franklin	MN Power (Allete)
Hanson, Brian	APEX, Duluth
Harding, Richard	Rennix Properties
Hawkinson, Mark	Hawkinson Construction
Hoolihan, Jim	Industrial Lubricant, Can-Jer
Johnson, Bart	Itasca Community College
Juidici, Scott	UPM
Lowney, Tamara	Itasca Economic Development Corp
MacDonell, Jean	Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
McDermott, Peter	MDI
Niklason, Brian	Woodland Bank
Prokop, Matt & Grant	Arrowhead Promotion and Fulfillment
Stone, Bud	Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Welliver, Steve	Wellson Group (real estate)

Engagement Event 4: Public Meeting

Purpose

A public meeting, held on December 3rd, 2019 at Grand Rapids Area Library from 6 to 8pm, had the following goals:

- Explain the elements and chapters of the plan
- Solicit specific feedback from Grand Rapids residents
- Promote ongoing engagement with the Comprehensive Plan

The meeting began with an explanation of a Comprehensive Plan and how it impacts the City's future. A description of a Comprehensive Plan, including how it is created, updated, and implemented, was provided to attendees.



To gain an understanding of what community values, guiding principles and implementation actions were desired, residents engaged in a series of activities. These included ranking exercises (placing dots next to items valued or placing marbles in jars next to items valued), small and large group discussion, and a question and answer session. The open house began with a presentation of the overall Comprehensive Plan process and an opportunity for question and answer. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to participate in the prioritization exercises and ask questions of staff and the consultant team. The following items were brought up during the question and answer session: regional center-community value, trails and sidewalks, mobility options, safety, design standards, renewable energy, climate action plan, the Line 3 pipeline, and implementation.

Summary

During the engagement activities, residents used “dots” to express what community values, guiding principles, and implementation actions they preferred. Residents were asked to identify which are most important by placing a dot in the corresponding box, with a total of five dots per resident. The tables below show detailed results for each activity (displayed from most valued to least valued):

Community Values

A character, trend, or condition that is valued throughout Grand Rapids

Value	Description	Dot Count
Sustainable Natural Infrastructure	Preserve quality natural resources within Grand Rapids, striving to maintain quality resources and access/interaction with the resources.	13
Quality of Life	Provide access to a high quality of life for all residents, with a range of services and amenities, including health care and childcare, quality schools, and affordable housing options.	10
Economic Opportunities	Value and maintain the healthy economic base within the community and support and pursue opportunities for growth	8
Sustainable Built Infrastructure	Develop and maintain quality infrastructure that responds to community needs while withstanding change.	7
Cultural and Recreational Opportunities	Highlight and promote existing resources by maintaining access and resource quality	6

Value	Description	Dot Count
Healthy Living and Accessible Movement	Expand opportunities for residents to incorporate healthy living into their lifestyle. Promote access for all types of movement within Grand Rapids.	4
Education	Support continued learning and development for all in Grand Rapids. Coordinate with local schools to provide access to continued education.	3
Safe Neighborhoods and Streets	Maintain a safe environment throughout Grand Rapids for all residents, within all locations, and during all activities.	3
Small Town Living	Support friendly, vital, welcoming and inclusive neighborhoods that provide a sense of community, support reinvestment in the area, and provides space for everyone to feel at home.	2
Fiscal Responsibility	Remain accountable for municipal spending to support the needs and desires of Grand Rapids and its residents.	2
Housing Variety	Value a range of housing types that offer something for everyone. The housing stock should provide a range of affordability, aesthetics, amenities, and access to services.	1
Regional Center	Embrace the city’s place as a regional center, serving the needs of both local and regional residents, while balancing the resources needed to support both the local and regional economies.	1

Guiding Principles

An overall effort that the community will work towards through all efforts

Value	Dot Count
Align change with the existing community, neighborhoods, and natural resources fabric	12
Promote local economic vitality	8
Sustain and enhance the city’s status as a regional center and its role in the greater region	7
Promote community participation and civic engagement to inform the public decision-making process	7
Support access to arts and culture and explore opportunities to incorporate into municipal action	6
Direct growth and development to locations that serve and support the community’s vision and values	5
Sustain Grand Rapids’ neighborhoods	5
Enhance healthy lifestyles, families, and community	5
Support and collaborate with community services providers and organizations to ensure that residents’ needs are met	4
The Comprehensive Plan is the foundation for City actions	4

To identify the most valued implementation actions for residents, they were asked to place a marble in the jar corresponding to the actions they value most.

Implementation Actions

Action or measure the city will work towards to achieve the goals and vision in the Comprehensive Plan

Value	Marble Count
Support a Mix of Land Uses	10
Development and Land Use Regulation	10
Downtown Revitalization	9
Support Neighborhoods in Land-Use Decision Making	5
Workforce	5
Business Retention/Expansion	5
Housing Variety and Market Demand	4
Affordable Housing	4
Neighborhood Character	3
Market Research, Marketing and Promotion	0

During all activities at this meeting, maps displaying Existing Land Use, Future Land Use, and Trails were on display. The figures helped to guide discussion, answer resident questions, and provide a visual guide to the City’s plan.



Residents engaging with activities and participating in discussion

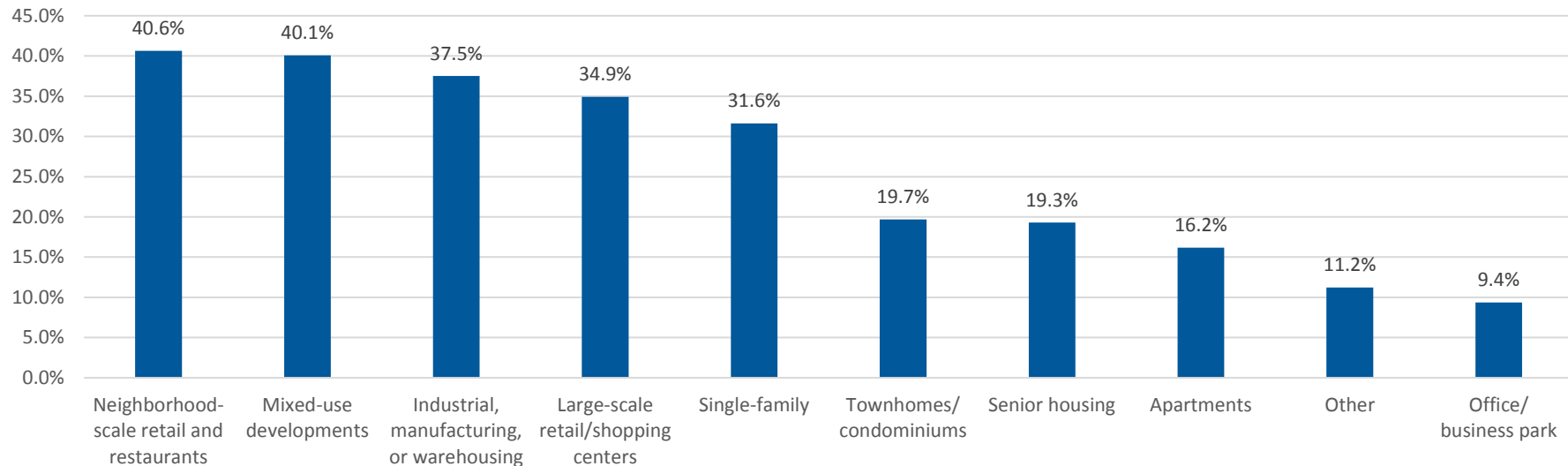
Grand Rapids Community Survey Response Summary

Question 1: What types of development does Grand Rapids need most to meet the needs of a growing population between now and 2040? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Neighborhood-scale retail and restaurants	221
Mixed-use developments (combination of residential, commercial, etc.)	218
Industrial, manufacturing, or warehousing	204
Large-scale retail/shopping centers	190
Single-family residences	172
Townhomes/condominiums (multifamily)	107
Senior housing	105
Apartments (multifamily)	88
Other	61
Office/business park	51
Total respondents	544

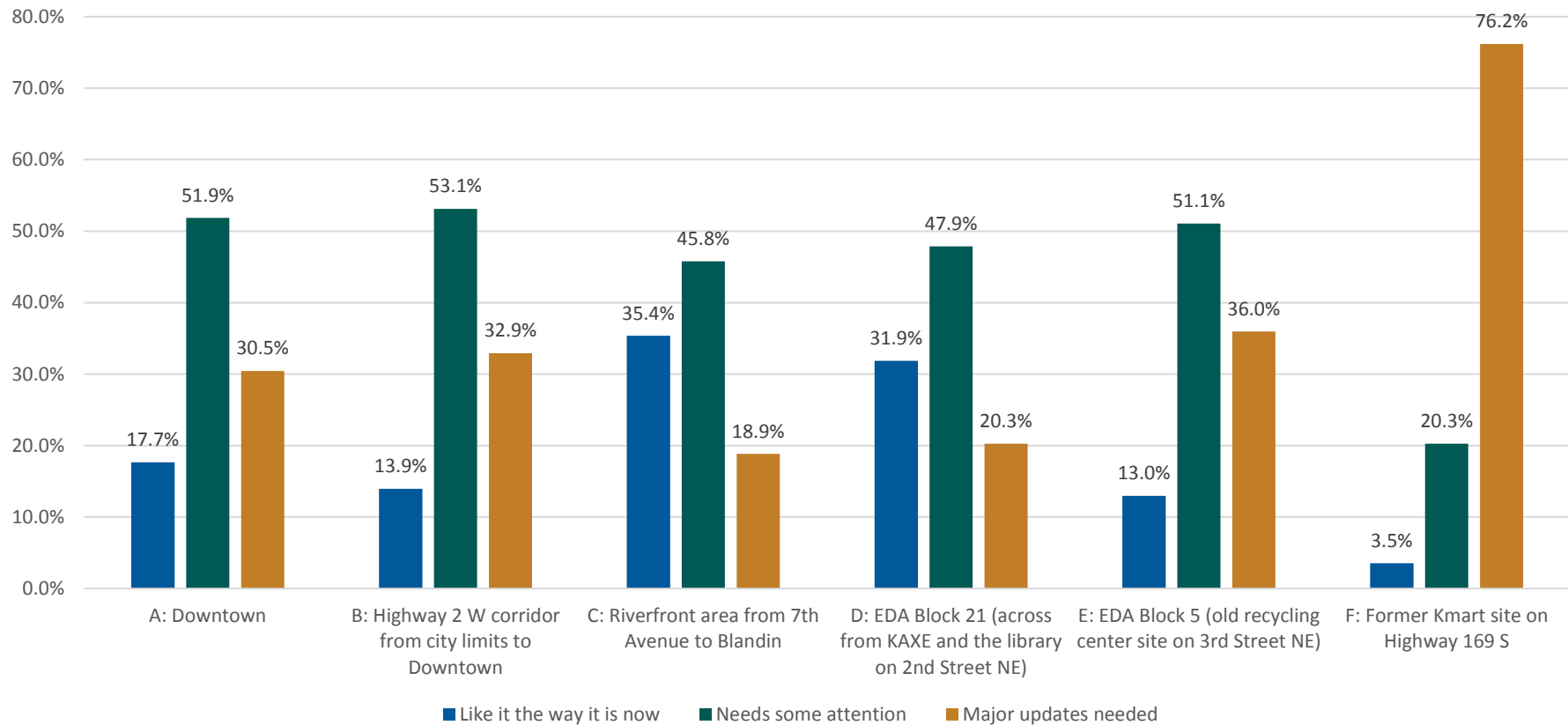
Open-ended responses (Other)

- Low-income housing (more or less)
- Housing for singles (smaller units)
- High-end senior housing
- Revitalized downtown
- Handicapped accessible housing
- Good-paying jobs
- Shopping center (Kohl's)
- Sports bar (Buffalo Wild Wings)
- Playground improvements
- A large employer
- Tourism-focused businesses



Question 2: What are your feelings about redevelopment in the following locations?

Location	Like it the way it is now	Needs some attention	Major updates needed	Total Responses
A: Downtown	90	264	155	509
B: Highway 2 W corridor from city limits to Downtown	69	263	163	495
C: Riverfront area from 7 th Avenue to Blandin	180	233	96	509
D: EDA Block 21 (across from KAXE library on 2 nd Street NE)	157	236	100	493
E: EDA Block 5 (old recycling center site on 3 rd Street NE)	62	244	172	478
F: Former Kmart site on Highway 169 S	18	103	387	508

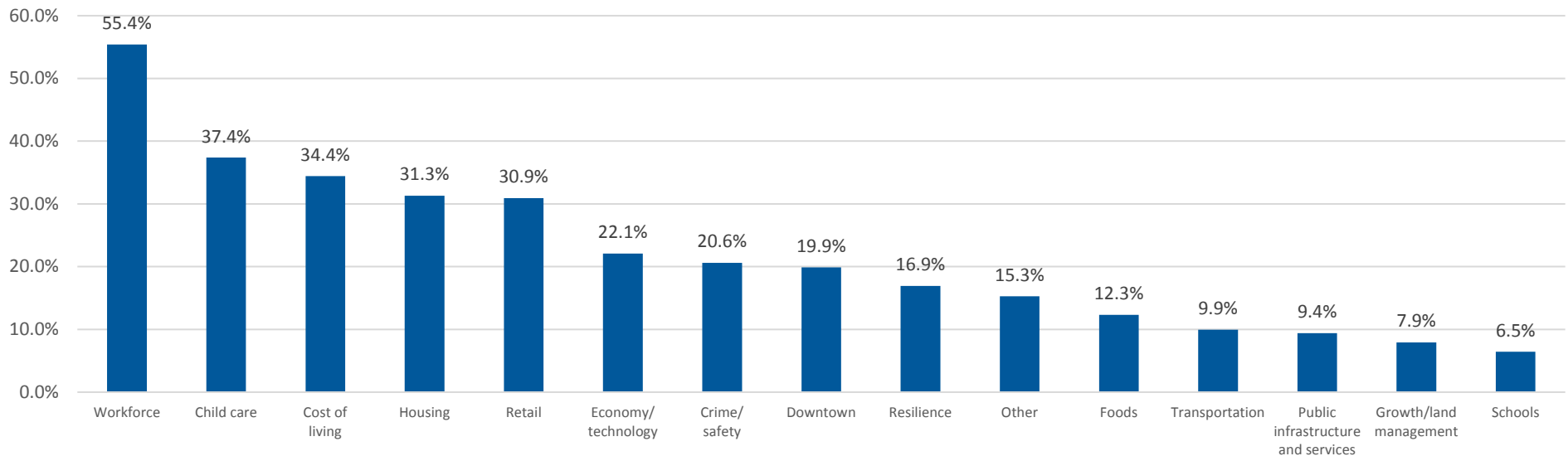


Question 3: What are the biggest obstacles for Grand Rapids over the next 20 years? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Workforce growth/retention	301
Availability of childcare services	203
Cost of living	187
Housing (availability, cost, options)	170
Retail competitiveness/changing nature of retail	168
Economic/technological change	120
Downtown revitalization	108
Other	83
Access to healthy foods	67
Transportation-related issues	54
Public infrastructure and services	51
Growth management/land management	43
School system (K-12)	35
Total Respondents	543

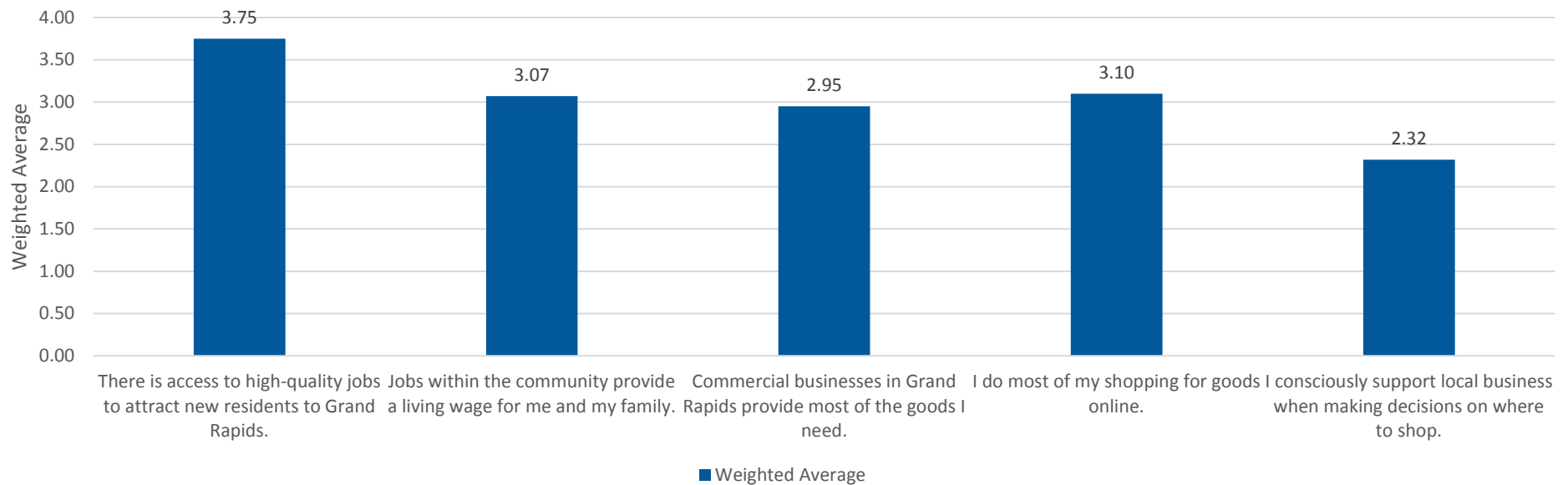
Open-ended responses (Other)

- Lower taxes
- Lake preservation
- Early childhood programs
- Wastewater plant (odor)
- Aging population
- Youth entertainment
- Lack of diversity
- Resistance to change
- Public spending (too high)
- Industry diversification
- Overall community aesthetics
- Drug use
- Attracting/creating industrial jobs



Question 4: Rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
There is access to high-quality jobs to attract new residents to Grand Rapids.	7	70	105	214	134	530
Jobs within the community provide a living wage for me and my family.	35	161	122	149	59	526
Commercial businesses in Grand Rapids provide most of the goods I need.	29	213	92	146	50	530
I do most of my shopping online.	56	107	145	162	56	526
I consciously support local businesses when making decisions on where to shop.	106	230	126	56	13	531



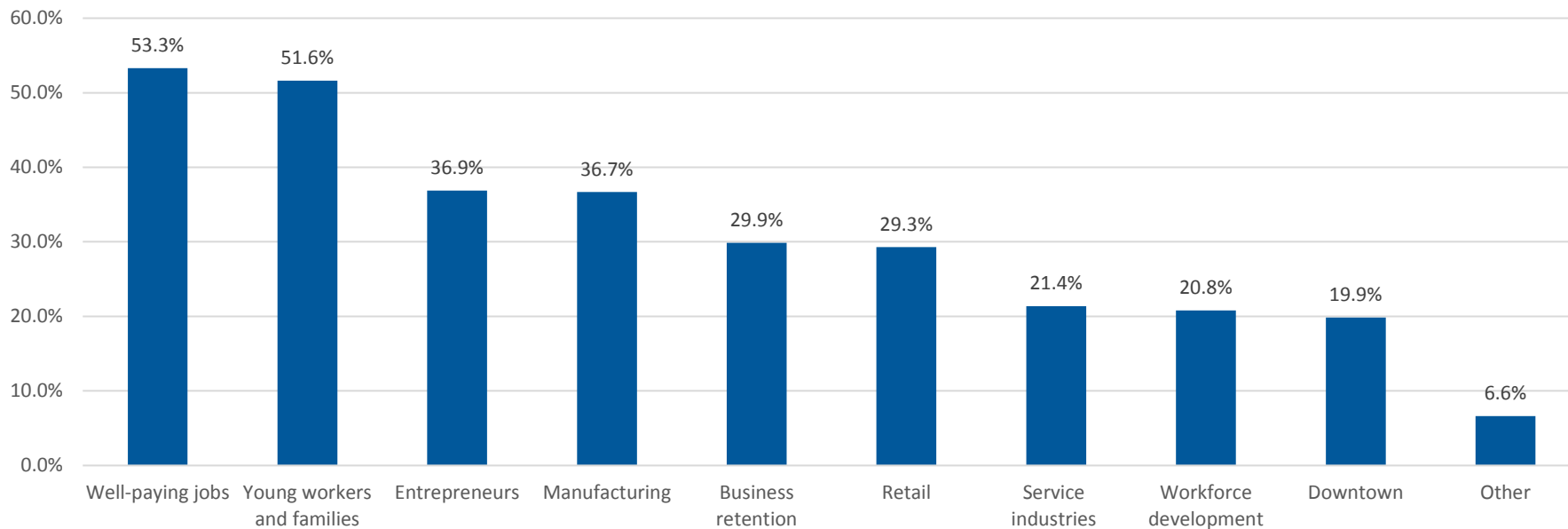
The bar chart represents a weighted average of all responses for each statement. Strongly Agree is given a value of 1 and Strongly Disagree a value of 5. The lower the score, the greater sense of agreement on average. **Therefore, a weighted average of 2.0 would represent general agreement with the statement, and a score of 4.0 would represent disagreement.**

Question 5: When it comes to economic growth, where should leaders focus? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Promoting well-paying jobs	282
Attracting/retaining young workers and families	273
Encouraging entrepreneurship and small business development	195
Promoting manufacturing and development of Industrial Parks	194
Retention of existing businesses	158
Increased retail development	155
Promoting service industries (e.g., health care, tourism, information technology)	113
Workforce development/training	110
Encouraging investments in Downtown	105
Other*	35
Total Respondents	529

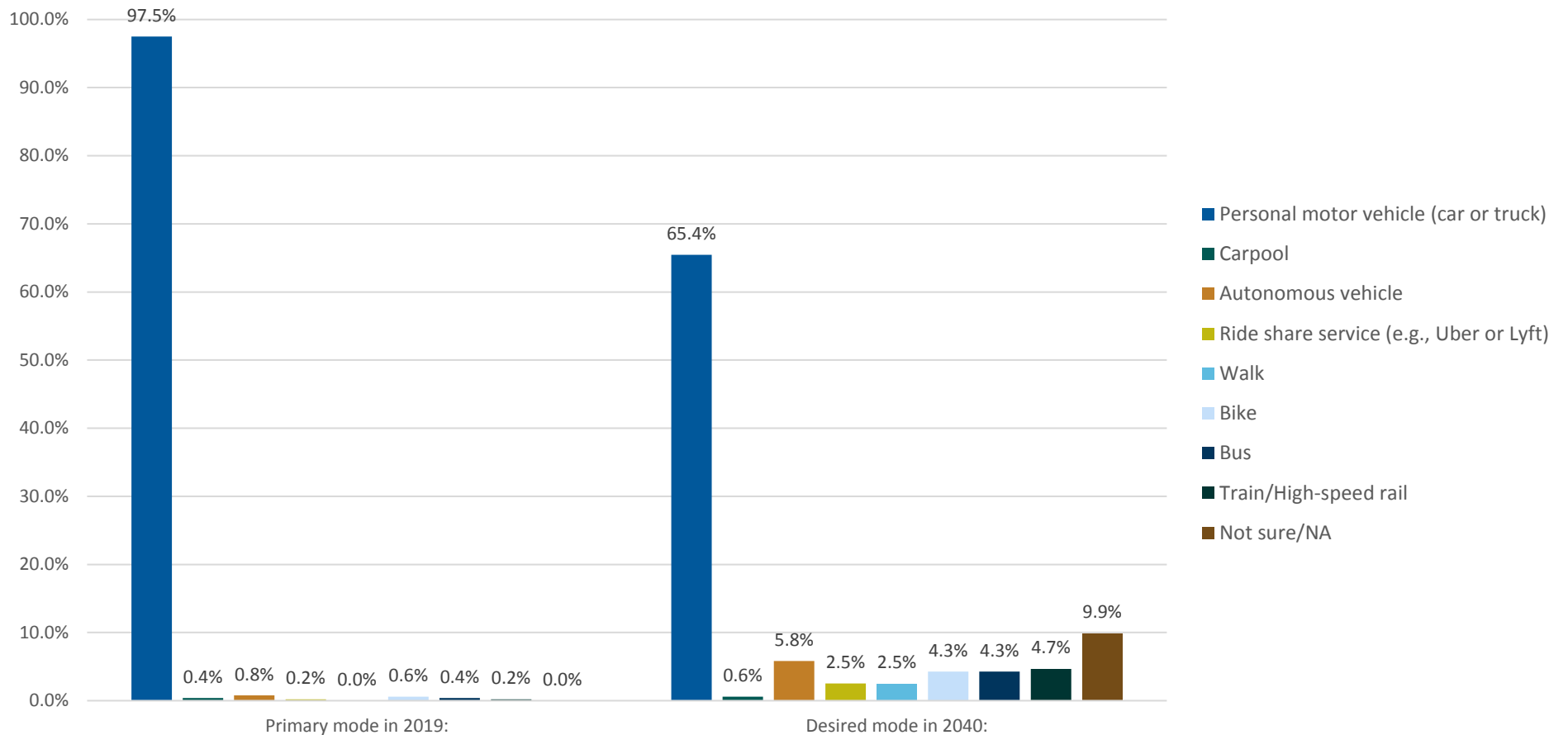
Open-ended responses (Other)

- Increase the sales tax
- Lower business taxes
- More flexible permitting
- Natural resource focus
- Local food/agriculture
- Affordable housing
- Focus on high-skill, high-wage jobs
- Social services
- Recreation/tourism focus



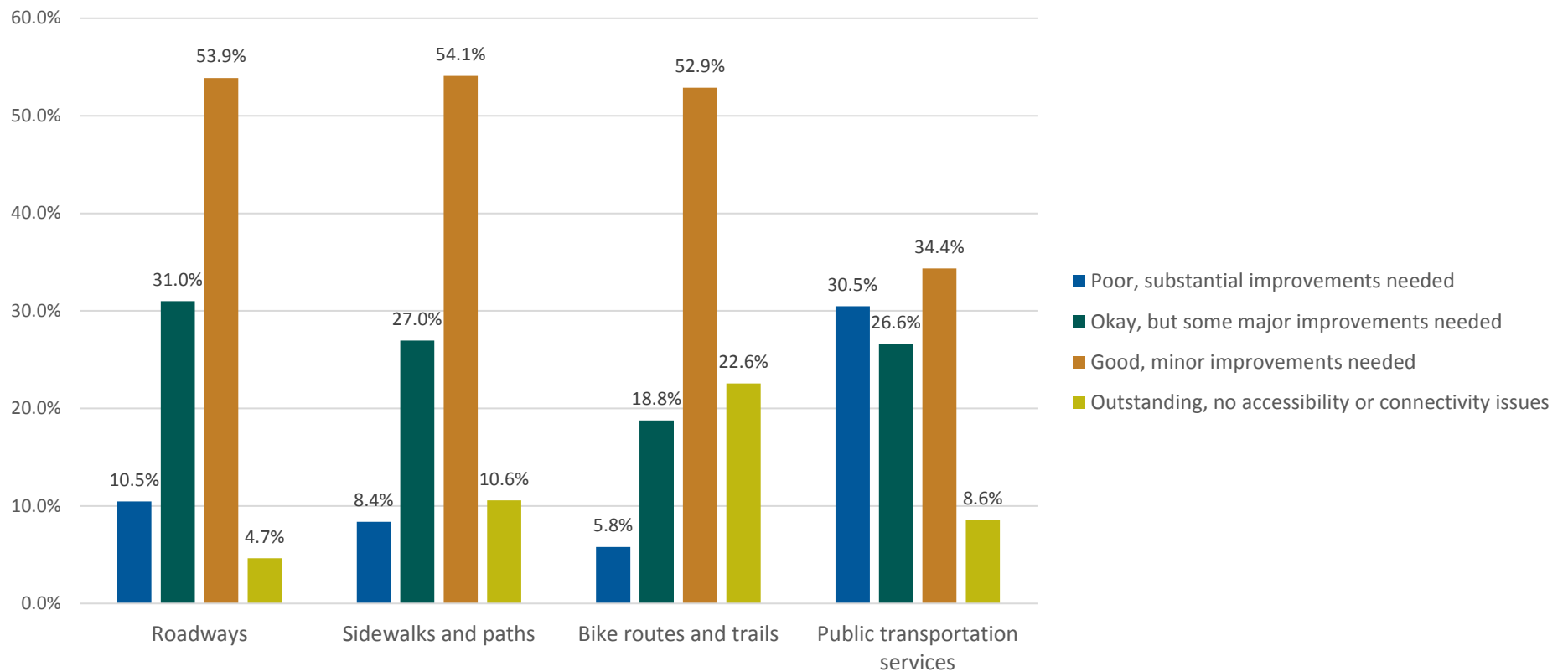
Question 6: Select your primary mode of transportation in 2019 and your desired mode of transportation in 2040.

Answer Choices	Personal motor vehicle	Carpool	Auto-nomous vehicle	Ride share service	Walk	Bike	Bus	Train/High-speed rail	Not Sure	Total
Primary mode in 2019	509	2	4	1	0	3	2	1	0	522
Desired mode in 2040	337	3	30	13	13	22	22	24	51	515



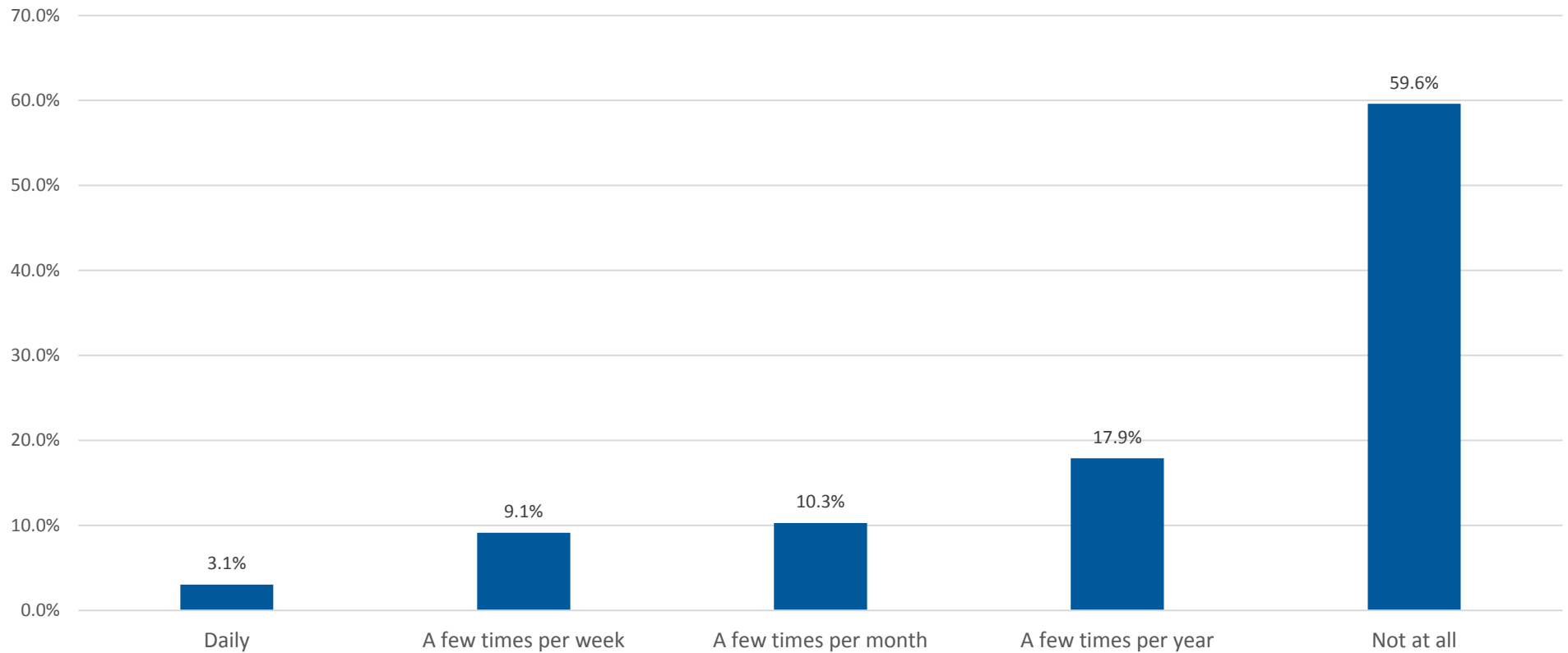
Question 7: How would you rate the overall accessibility/connectivity of the following transportation systems?

Statement	Poor, substantial improvements needed	Okay, but some major improvements needed	Good, minor improvements needed	Outstanding, no accessibility or connectivity issues	Total
Roadways	54	160	278	24	516
Sidewalks and paths	42	135	271	53	501
Bike routes and trails	29	94	265	113	501
Public transportation services	149	130	168	42	489



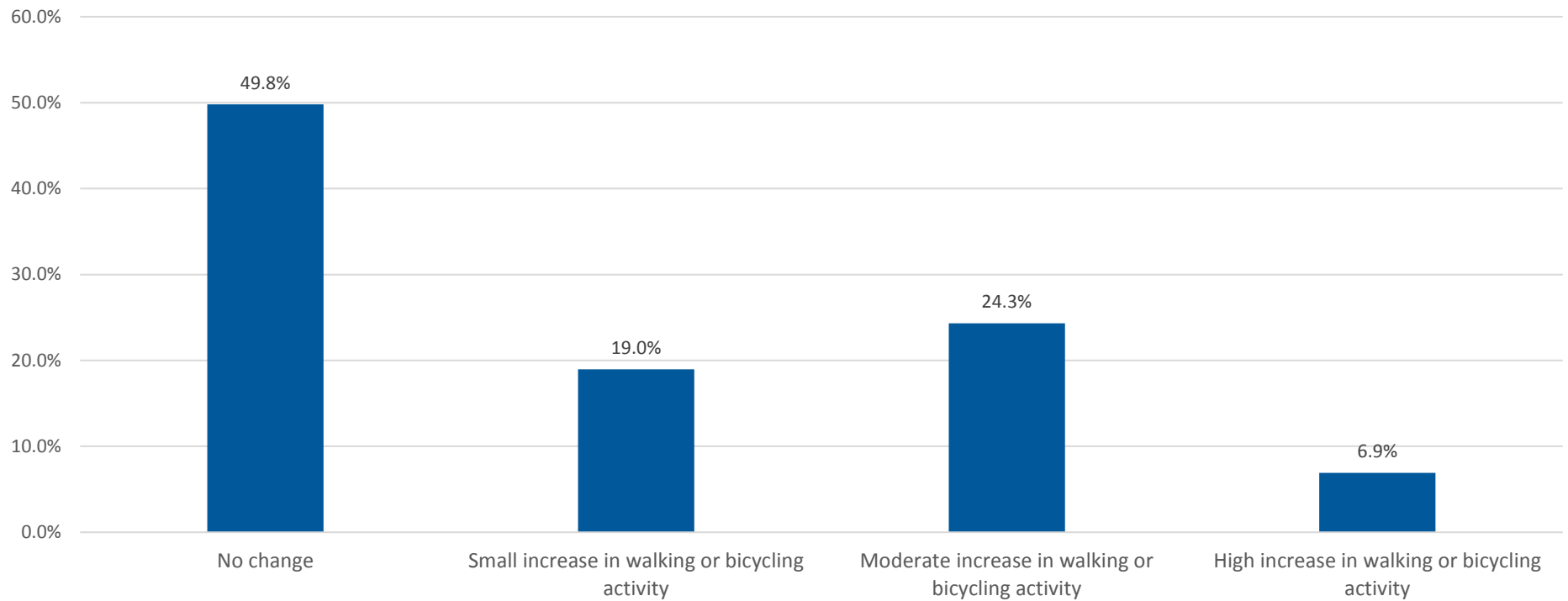
Question 8: How often do you walk or bike for trips to work, shopping, etc.?

Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all	313
Daily	16
A few times per week	48
A few times per month	54
A few times per year	94
Total	525



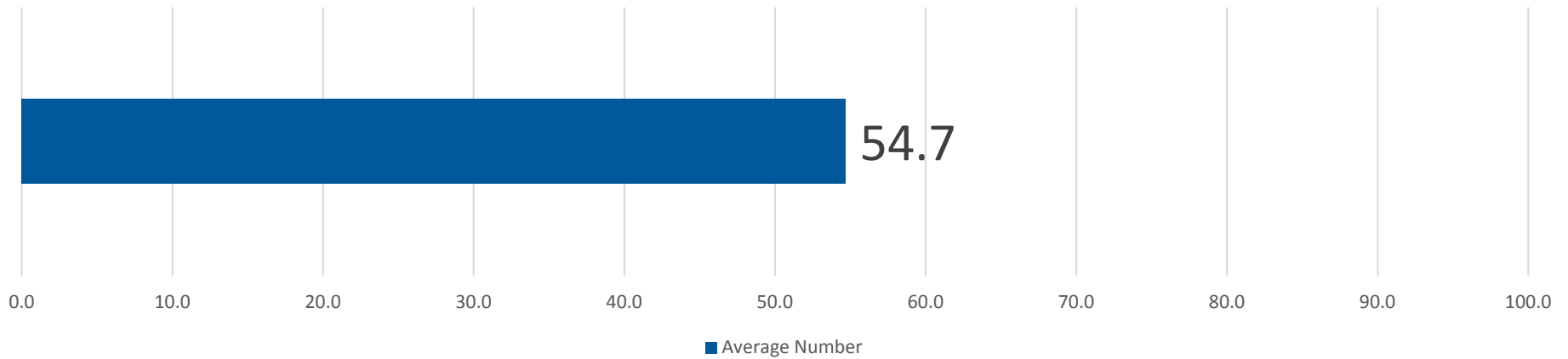
Question 9: If safer, more convenient bicycle or pedestrian connections were installed how would you alter your travel behavior?

Answer Choices	Responses
No change	260
Small increase in walking or bicycling activity	99
Moderate increase in walking or bicycling activity	127
High increase in walking or bicycling activity	36
Total	522



Question 10: Please rate the need for public transit services operating within/around Grand Rapids (Sliding scale from 0 to 100).

A value of 0 represents "No Need", while a response of 100 identifies a "High Need".



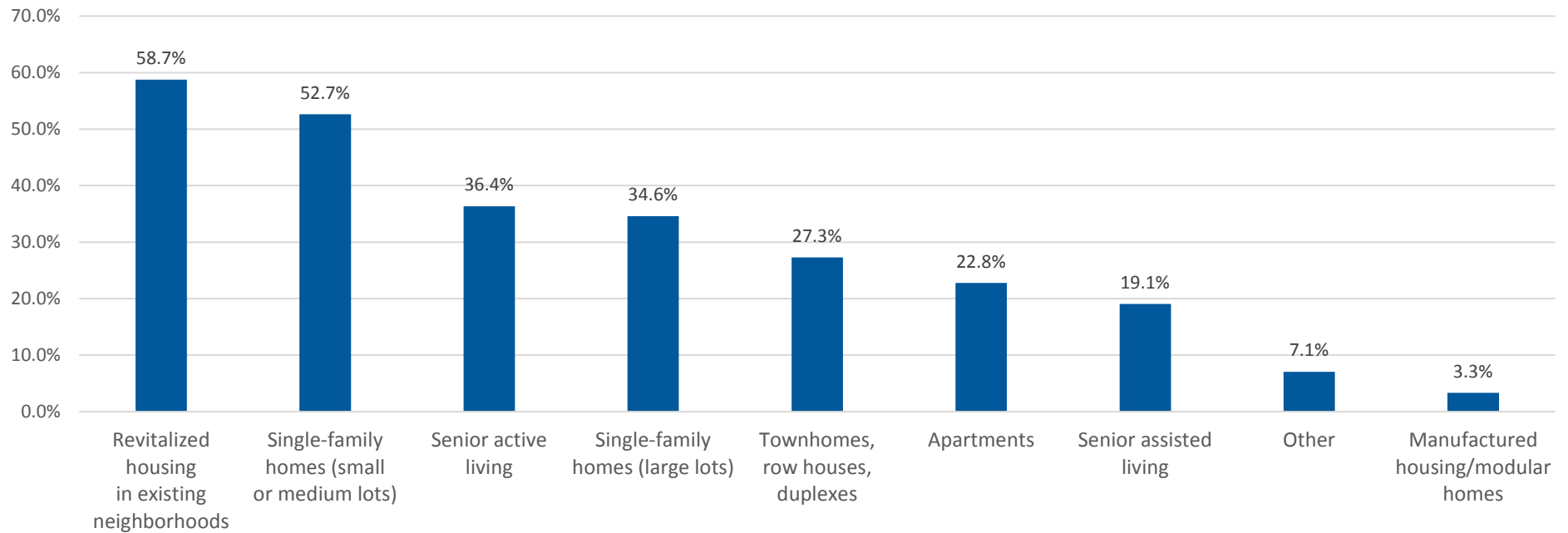
Total Respondents: 495

Question 11: What types of housing are needed in Grand Rapids? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Revitalized housing in existing neighborhoods	299
Single-family homes (small or medium lots)	268
Senior active living communities	185
Single-family homes (large lots)	176
Townhomes, row houses, duplexes (limited-scale multifamily)	139
Apartments	116
Senior assisted living communities	97
Other*	36
Manufactured housing/modular homes	17
Total Respondents	509

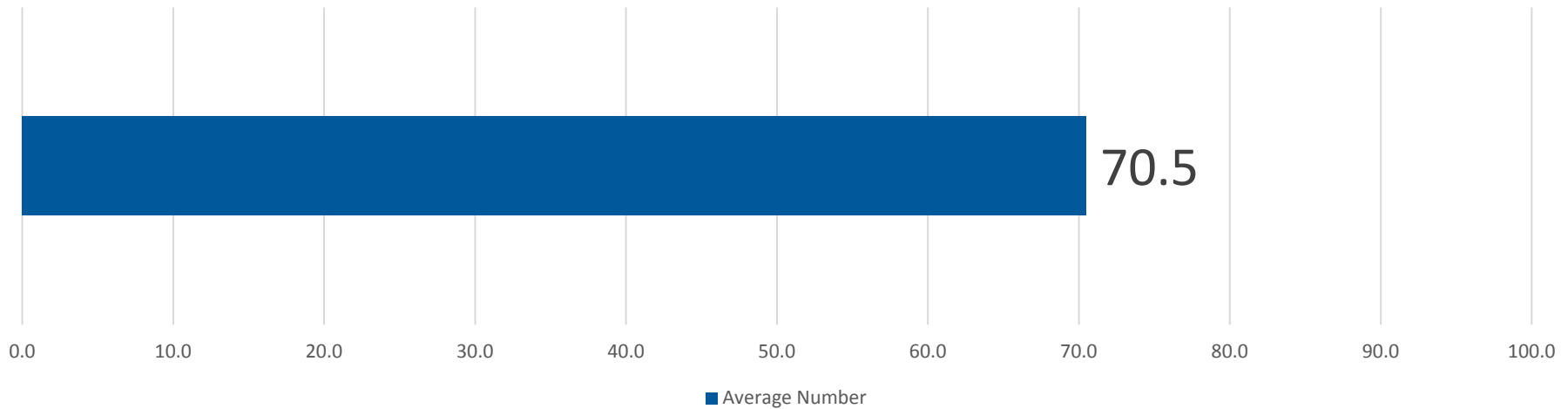
Open-ended responses (Other)

- Affordable housing for all income levels
- Homeless shelters
- Single-level homes
- Studio apartments
- Pet-friendly rentals
- Workforce housing
- Tiny homes
- High-end apartments



Question 12: Please rate the need for housing that is affordable to working individuals and families in Grand Rapids (Sliding scale from 0 to 100).

A value of 0 represents "No Need", while a response of 100 identifies a "High Need".



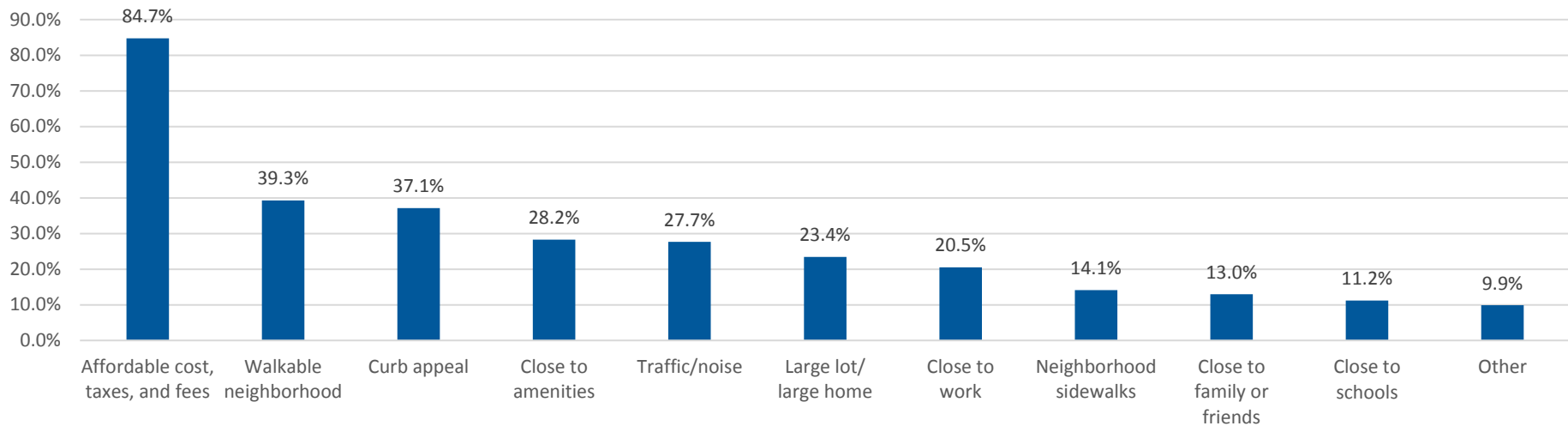
Total Respondents: 500

Question 13: If you were moving to Grand Rapids today, what factors would be most important when choosing your home or apartment? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Affordable cost, taxes, and fees	438
Walkable neighborhood	203
Curb appeal/appearance	192
Close to amenities (shopping, dining, parks, etc.)	146
Traffic/noise	143
Large lot/large home	121
Close to work	106
Neighborhood sidewalks	73
Close to family or friends	67
Close to schools	58
Other*	51
Total respondents	517

Open-ended responses (Other)

- Safety
- Childcare
- Good schools
- Good-paying jobs
- Prefer to live outside city limits
- Privacy
- Lake living
- Single-floor homes for older population
- Bicycle-friendly
- Neighborhood appearance
- Community activities

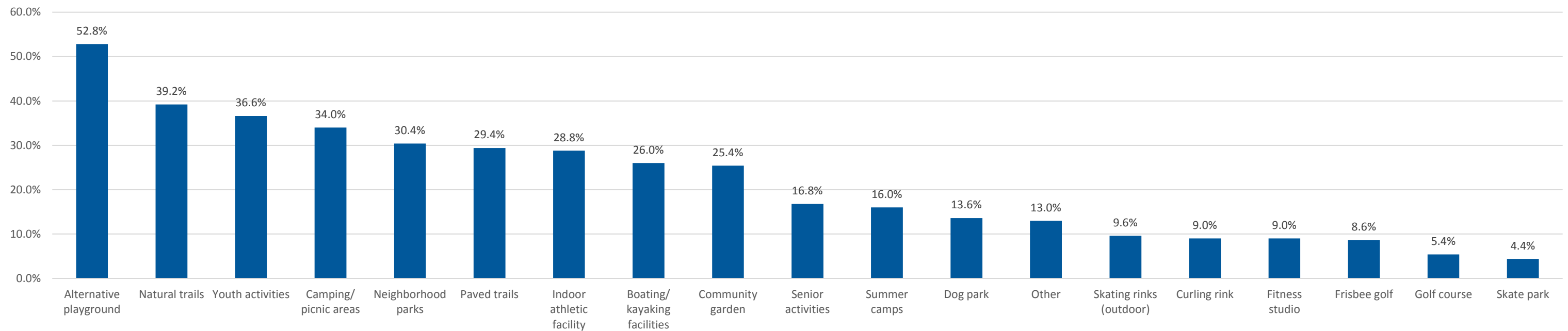


Question 14: What recreational features/facilities would you like to see more of in Grand Rapids? (Select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
Alternative playground types (e.g., indoor playground, adventure playground, natural playground)	264
Natural trails	196
Youth activities	183
Camping/picnic areas	170
Neighborhood parks	152
Paved recreational trails	147
Indoor multi-purpose athletic facility	144
Community garden	127
Senior activities	84
Summer camp	80
Dog park	68
Other*	65
Skating rinks (outdoor)	48
Curling rink	45
Fitness studio	45
Frisbee disc golf course	43
Golf course	27
Skate park	22
Total respondents	500

Open-ended responses (Other)

- Splash pad
- Kayak rental on the Mississippi
- Designated bike routes
- Fishing piers
- Roller skating
- More winter activities
- Yoga
- Adult classes
- Motorized trails
- Update existing facilities
- Cross-country skiing
- Outdoor amphitheater/music festivals
- ADA accessible playgrounds
- Virtual golf

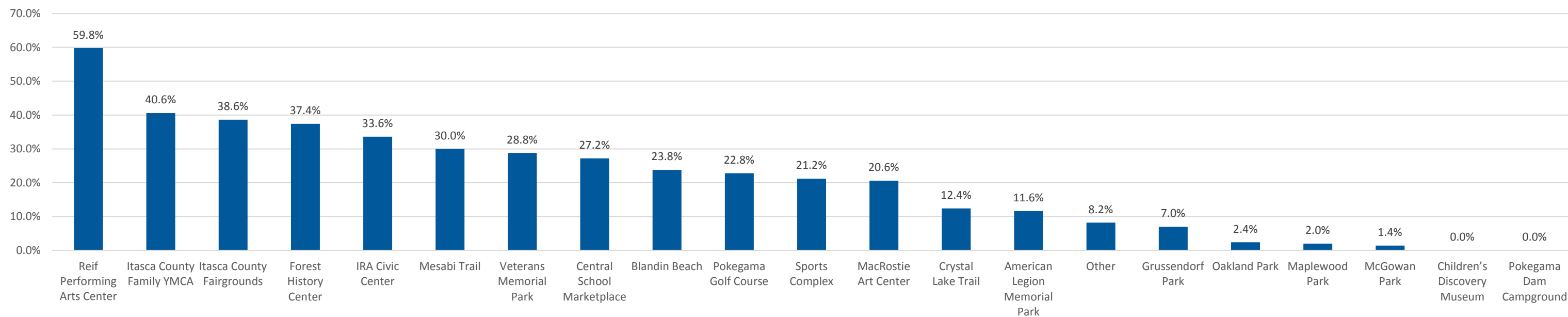


Question 15: What parks/places/spaces do you most cherish in Grand Rapids? (Select up to 5)

Answer Choices	Responses
Reif Performing Arts Center	299
Itasca County Family YMCA	203
Itasca County Fairgrounds	193
Forest History Center	187
IRA Civic Center	168
Mesabi Trail	150
Veterans Memorial Park	144
Central School Marketplace	136
Blandin Beach	119
Pokegama Golf Course	114
Sports Complex	106
MacRostie Art Center	103
Crystal Lake Trail	62
American Legion Memorial Par	58
Other*	41
Grussendorf Park	35
Oakland Park	12
Maplewood Park	7
McGowan Park	7
Children’s Discovery Museum	0
Pokegama Dam Campground	0
Total respondents	500

Open-ended responses (Other)

- Pokegama Lake
- Willow Park
- Tioga Beach
- Library
- Riverfront
- Taconite Trail
- Horseshoe Lake Trail
- Itasca Curling Club
- Dog park
- Small neighborhood parks
- Deer hunting areas



Question 16: List what you think are the two best aspects of day-to-day life, or the two most positive attributes of living in Grand Rapids.

The word cloud below illustrates the most frequency of words that appeared throughout the open-ended responses to Question 16.



Top Occurring Words	Frequency
Small	125
Town	121
Safety	111
Community	76
Nature	74
Lakes	74
Feel	58
Close	54
Access	49
People	35
Family	33
Beautiful	28
Clean	27
Activities	26
Outdoor	26
Shopping	23
Good	23
Safe	23
Friendly	21
Blandin	21
Schools	21

All Responses**Responses**

mental health services/Northern Counseling Center
 close to shopping
 small town feel but not too small (shopping, food, restaurants are available).
 Small town safe feel
 Clean up the shit plant stink
 Outdoors
 Short travel times
 Enjoying closeby nature
 Nearby outdoor activities
 Quiet
 Low crime rate
 Trees and lakes
 Beautiful lakes
 Small town but wide variety of services and opportunities available
 nice place to be
 working close to home
 Nature
 Target
 Medical services
 Many service organizations
 Low crime
 Clean lakes
 Family friendly
 Schools
 Can't think of any
 Close to shopping/dining
 ability to walk/bike downtown, to Library, to YMCA, to Reif
 Beautiful
 Beautiful
 How clean and up kept the town is.
 Low crime/feel safe
 slower paced
 A lot of places to fish
 We have a clean town
 Access to lakes
 None
 Small town living
 Farmers Market
 Laid back community
 Small town feel

overall crime rate
 affordable housing
 immediate access to the beautiful outdoors
 clean and well maintained
 Clean the shit plant stink up
 easy of quick trips to town
 Plenty of open parking
 Work is closeby
 Available shopping

 Friendly neighbors
 Cleanliness
 Small town atmosphere
 Close proximity to lakes, trails, woods

 friendly folks
 helping services
 Art
 Youth sports

 Parks and trails
 Pride

 Close proximity to need
 Small town feel
 Same
 Traffic isn't too busy
 Arts events: First Friday, MacRostie, Reif
 Small town feel with many amenities
 Supportive community
 The city AND people invest in the town
 Good schools
 small town feel
 Never having to leave town to get something I need
 Volunteering is still popular!
 Small town life
 None
 Forests & Lakes
 Nature
 Less crime
 Surrounded by lakes and nature

Beautiful atmosphere/outdoors
 Small enough that you feel like part of the community
 but large enough that we can have all the comforts
 Nature and outdoors
 Small town
 Quick commute
 It is close to lots of public land and water.
 Natural settings
 small population
 Small town feeling with large town amenities
 Community willing to help each other
 Smaller Town
 Fishing at the river
 Simple life
 Quiet, slow pace, light traffic
 Many option for shopping
 Good churches
 Small town feel
 Small town living
 Small enough to walk most places
 Lakes
 Friendly people
 Clean
 Small town feel with improving shopping/food options
 Living on the lake
 Safety!
 The greenery
 Relative ease in getting around town in spite of city's
 efforts to close off roads over the past 45 years.
 Country feel
 Water
 Close to family
 It has a small town feel.
 water access
 Fishing
 Close to nature areas
 Less stress
 Nature
 Small town feel.
 Nothing
 convenience is having most of what we need close by
 Family

Proximity of frequented businesses
 Grand itasca hospital
 Arts
 Supporting local people
 Good grocery stores
 There is a strong network to support so many non-
 profits
 Quality of lakes
 natural resources
 Trails and outdoor recreation
 The services that are available
 Friendly people
 Renting bikes from library
 Less populated
 Grand Rapids Library
 Lots of community events
 Friendly community
 It is growing.
 Northern MN feel
 Largest to having variety in shopping and food
 Small-town friendliness
 A mix of chain and local stores
 Classy
 Friendliness of residents
 Not living in the cities
 Everyone knows everyone, friendly, clean, safe, healthy,
 caring community.
 Location to lakes
 Friendliness and atmosphere of the vast majority of
 Grand Rapids people.
 Trails
 Small community feel
 Beautiful land to explore. Love all the trails were are still
 discovering after living here almost 10 years
 location
 Hunting
 It's not the metro area
 Enjoy outdoors
 Community
 Managable traffic.
 Nothing
 Having the best of both worlds, nature at our finger tips
 and also having a little bit of city feel.
 Outdoors

Beauty and Peacefulness
 Access to good healthcare/arts
 Outdoor beauty
 We have good people here in our area.
 small town feel
 Sense of community
 Community
 Excellent fishing and hunting

 safe, small town atmosphere

 Small town feel
 Small town feel
 Access to open water
 Close access to beautiful nature/water
 Small City feel
 Small town
 arts
 Low crime
 Access to nice lakes
 ymca
 Size
 Smaller community
 Quaint, small town
 Lakes, forests, trails, NATURE!
 Natural setting: river and lakes
 Sense of community life.
 friendly neighborhoods
 Close to nature
 Safety / crime
 Love how connected I feel with the people in this
 community
 Location
 access to nature
 Lake accessibly
 None - it is just a place to live
 Family
 Size
 Ease of getting around
 Small community
 Nature
 The lakes/walking & ski trails/parks
 small town
 Lakes in town
 Access to lakes and woods
 It's a perfectly sized town with most everything close
 together

Community
 Access to local shopping
 Slower pace of life
 Pretty good shopping here.
 wonderful school district
 Road planning
 Location

 great amenities for small town (thanks to blandin
 foundatio grants)
 Friendly people
 Nature, water
 Access to trails
 Good smaller size city/low violent crime
 Close to many lakes
 Quiet
 downtown
 Natural beauty
 Strong community relationships
 boating/snowmobiling
 Pace
 Slower paced then metro
 Culturally same for long term. No refugees.
 Sense of community
 pedestrian friendly areas downtown
 Beautiful natural environments
 smal businesses
 Good schools
 Close to nature

 Bigger businesses such as target, aldi, SuperOne

 Family
 it's calm / not much traffic
 School proximity

 Nature
 Personnal
 Family close by
 Good schools
 Community
 Everything is conveniently located.

 The arts in town are growing
 First Friday and cultural life
 It's not too busy or crowded

Outdoor activities
 small town living
 Quiet, safe neighborhoods
 Beautiful location on River
 Biking trails and access
 School system
 Small town feel.
 Proximity to work
 Safety
 Small-town feel
 The lakes
 Being outdoors
 The big hearted people in this community, a lot of whom are small business owners
 Safety an Health of Community
 Small town feel where ppl are in it together
 Small safe town
 Safe
 The help low income familys get
 Small town feel
 None
 Beautiful citt
 Location to lakes
 close to natural resources
 Outdoor activities
 Work- life balance
 Safe community
 small town feel
 small town feel with "big" city amenities
 Being safe
 It still has a small town feel to it.
 Small town
 Beautiful nature
 Low crime
 The Lakes
 Low crime/safe community
 Welcoming community
 Being close to everything I need. No long commute.
 Small businesses
 Small town feel
 Low crime
 Outdoor activities
 Small town
 Tranquility of the woods and lakes
 quiet
 Shopping opportunities for all my needs: food, clothing, tools, maintenance etc
 Access to healthcare and stores near
 Walmart grocery pick up
 Lakes
 Proximity to shopping
 Nature
 Nature, and our rivers, lakes and woods
 The parks
 Close knit community
 The outdoor options, trails, parks etc
 Natural Beauty and Outdoors
 Lakes, outdoor life, nature access right out your doorstep
 Knowing people where you go
 Clean
 Volunteer jobs are amazing
 clean living
 Love the trees. Don't cut them down.
 most of what I need for shopping is here
 The lakes
 Access to the outdoors
 Easy access to shopping
 options for family dining
 good wage job while able to live in a beautiful, natural setting
 We have a lot to offer here for a small community
 It feels safe for the most part
 Lots of lakes and forest
 Lake access
 Cleanliness
 Small town atmosphere
 Friendly people-small town feel
 Progressive leadership
 Supportive business community
 Parks
 Friendly library staff
 Clean place to live
 Quiet neighbor hoods
 Schools

Fishing	Hunting
Ability to raise a family	Outdoors
Lots of public land	Lower population
Family close by	Pretty scenery
Low crime	Respectful Diversity
Small town living yet have a lot of amenities	The surrounding area is the draw to area for the lakes
Ready to move to highly taxed	Property taxes high , over spending in city government
Local Geography- proximity to great places to explore	A community with good business opportunities and great new schools soon.
Local support of each other	Low crime
The beauty of the river	The lakes
The Lakes	Target
Quiet neighborhoods	Low density housing
We have a safe community.	Small town feel with access to outdoor activities.
It's a smaller place-small town feel	It's NOT the cities
The city is beautiful with water and trees and green spaces	Nice blend of sports and arts
Small community with arts and parks	Short commute
Friendly People	Many things to do
Small town.	The area that surrounds us.
Nature - recreation	Safety
People	People
Small town feel	Don't feel rushed
sense of community	variety of stores and nature
Small Community	Family friendly
Small	Clean air
Clean up uptown	
Safe quiet small town	Good people
outdoor summer activities	near lakes
Small town feel with access to amenities	Walking/bike trails
Smaller town	Good people
Small community living	Outdoor activities
Lots of community activities	Many retail/food options
forest/lake setting -environment	small with amenities
Natural aesthetics (river, lakes, woods)	Social gathering places such as the Reif, YMCA, Blandin Foundation, Brewed Awakenings, etc.
Small town with big town services.	Pokegama Lake.
Lakes	Friendly people.
Easy access to outdoor activities	Cool summers
Close community	Sports programs
The beautiful outdoors - pokegama lake and surrounding lakes	Big enough to severe you small enough to know you atmosphere
clean air to breath	friendliness of peoplse
N/a	N/a
Access to nature	Public school system
Proximity to shopping/events	

Climate	Rural Mn.
Access to nature	Not much traffic
hometown feel	safe for kids
Progressive government	Many community groups that work well together
The lakes	Small town feel
Nice size, not too big, not too small	Nice bike trails, beaches
Access to kayaking and hiking opportunities	Friendly people
Friendly people	Lakes
outdoor walking/hiking trails	boating/canoe
Quiet and generally safe community	ability and opportunities to get involved
Small Town feel	Friendliness of people
Small rural city setting	Clean Air
Opportunities in the arts	Natural environment (lakes, older trees, the river)
Dog park	Sylvan bay
Beautiful area	Lakes
Size	Accessible nature, lakes etc.
Community	Green spaces
Small town feel with some big town amenities	Friendly service at local businesses
The farmers market , but it should be indoors and year round.	Access to stores you need
Lake access	small town
Small town, please keep it that way	
Access to lakes	Family in the area
Safty	The outdoors,culture
Lakes and water access	Small town feel
Strong sense of Community	All of the year around activities that are available
Close to nature	Tight knit community
access to outdoor activities	growth of small businesses
Nature	Commute Time
Schools	Businesses
Progressive community working towards a better future	Community is healthy, active and promotes well being for all.
The area	The area
For the most part a safe friendly community	Availabilty to outdoor activities
Medium size town	Beauty
Low crime	Clean environment. Yes, even with a coal-fired power plant and a paper mill.
General appearance. Trees and well kept hmes	Availability of health care.
Small town lifestyle	Almost everything you need available in town
Smaller town but not to small	Family
Access to the outdoors	Sense of community
small town feel but convenient as well	lack of government intervention is always best
Schools	Target
Nature	Community
Nothing	
Quite town	Safe neighborhoods

Resources for seniors (ElderCircle, Active living center, volunteerism)
 Small town
 Walkable
 Safe
 Easy access to lakes.
 Lakes Access
 Lakes
 Small friendly community
 The community
 feel safe
 Low crime
 quality schools
 Nature is within the city limits
 Small town
 Small-town USA (not a metropolis)
 Good schools
 Ability to live in the country, yet close to town.
 Not crowded
 cultural activities
 Nice People / Attitudes
 Small town feel
 Friendly community.
 Small town
 community
 Nature
 Love the small town
 Being in the northland, a lot of parks!
 Outdoor activities
 Small town feel - Close knit community
 Connection to nature, get to see the River and wildlife everyday
 Family
 Small town feeling
 Quite
 lakes
 Good trails and parks in the area.
 ICC
 Natural spaces
 Living close to friends and family
 Small town
 Nature and The area Lakes
 close to regional shopping (Duluth)

The Reif

Most shopping, services are fairly close together.
 Nice small coffee shop and locally owned cafes
 Clean
 Can be out of town in a short time and go hiking.
 Access to hunting/4 Wheeling/Snowmobiling
 Small town
 Other than clothing stores for adults, most needs are met in Grand Rapids.
 Recreation facilities
 low crime
 Education
 more options than area towns across the range
 small retail businesses are staying or trying to stay
 Personal/ business relationships , community involvement
 Clean city
 Ability to be close to lakes.
 Relatively safe
 shopping
 Lots of Outdoor Activities
 Pretty town
 Options for services are abundant.
 Safe
 small town but having what you need right here
 Less people than big city
 If this is where you grew up there's no better place to be
 Sense of community
 Rief Center for arts
 Library, YMCA, Outdoor activities
 There is an active arts scene here
 Little traffic
 Nature in any direction
 Rural
 Good art but could have more.
 PUBLIC LIBRARY
 Friends & family
 close to lake activities
 Slower pace of life
 The people and lifestyle of living in and enjoying God's Country
 lakes

Nature/Lakes
 Safety
 nature
 community support
 Beautiful walking/biking trails
 My neighborhood is close to schools and my job while also having easy access to natural areas
 Scenery
 Small town feel
 Sense of community
 Short commute home after work
 Outdoor Recreation
 Traffic is low
 Healthy Environment
 Living so close to nature
 Welcoming community
 Nature
 Not a congested town for the most part
 Enough larger amenities, with small town feel
 Living in the north. Its rural and quiet but has most of what you need
 natural look
 Still mostly small town atmosphere, I seldom consider locking car doors if I run into a store.
 Access to nature
 Beauty/nature
 Not over developed
 Friendly
 Exercise
 Small town
 Access to Lakes and Trails
 Scenery
 Easy to get around town
 Nature, lakes, trees, northwoods living
 No traffic
 Close to stores
 Lakes/water
 Lake access
 Close to work
 Nature
 small town caring of the citizens
 Nature
 School system
 An Seventh-day Adventist church in town

Healthy
 short commute to work
 close to family
 Access to decent stores and restaurants
 The community is small enough that I know a lot of people that I encounter in day-to-day life, and this helps me feel connected.
 Small town atmosphere
 Great outdoors
 Access to cultural events-Reif, MacRostie, etc...
 Short commute to recreational opportunities
 Small Town
 Outdoor activities
 Small Community
 Community of arts; MAC, KAXE, Reif.
 Visual appeal (continues to improve)
 Lakes and water activities.
 Many parts of town are visually appealing
 Nature
 Sense of community support
 affordable
 Friendly people, haven't completely gone overboard on the PC bandwagon.
 Access Public lands
 Lack of diversity
 Good resources for a community that is NOT OVERDEVELOPED yet
 Small town
 Shopping
 Northwoods
 Great school system
 Small town charm
 Attractive city with a lot to do for the size
 small town atmosphere with everything you need
 Natural beauty
 Doesn't feel like you live in a city
 Availability of outdoor activities
 Shopping
 Lots of undeveloped public land
 Lakes
 great schools for our children and grandchildren
 Safety
 Great parks
 Arts community

Quite nature of Grand Rapids
 Close to family
 Clean
 Close to lakes, woods and all outdoor activities.
 low crime rate
 Children oriented
 lakes and water activities
 Safety
 Close to nature
 Friendly people
 Small town feeling
 living outdoors
 Sidewalks kept plowed in the winter to ease walking
 Small size
 Hunting
 Friendly, supportive residents
 Close to natural surroundings
 local businesses thrive in GR
 Close to family
 Family is here

Our families feel safe.

Safety/Security
 Sense of community.
 country living in the north woods
 Great location to area lakes
 no traffic (big city type traffic)
 small town atmosphere
 Seems to be a clean community
 People in the community
 Been here all my life
 Access to all the lakes
 Low crime, small town safety
 Small town feel
 Being close to nature
 Stores
 Small community feel
 Rural: town, but close to woods and lakes
 Sense of Community
 Friendly town
 Progressive city council and administration that support active lifestyles
 Beauty
 Small community

Great Police and Fire force
 Ability to be close to nature
 Healthcare
 Small community that has a lot to offer.
 smaller town
 Small town atmosphere
 arts
 Friendly
 Fun local businesses
 Low crime

small town feel
 Dining choices
 Nature activities
 Fishing
 Close proximity to outdoor amenities
 Not over populated yet
 Friendly and strong community
 The nature surrounding us
 Close community
 It's a caring community; people volunteer time and resources and are committed to helping each other and keeping the community vibrant.
 Comfortable/Ease of Living
 Proximity to lakes, woods, and local shopping.
 close to lakes
 Good schools
 community feel
 outdoor activities, fishing, hunting etc.
 The majority of the people are friendly
 small town feel with amenities
 some good job opportunities
 The people
 Quick access to beautiful lakes and hiking
 Living wage job
 Support for new businesses
 Churches
 Forest meets city natural environment
 generally low traffic (in winter)
 Diversity in attractions
 clean environment
 Small town with some big-city amenities such as the tap rooms
 Waterways
 access to lakes

Access to nearby public lands and clean waters
 long term family connections
 Community is friendly.
 Safe
 Assessibility of shopping I need
 activities
 My Family is here
 Friendliness of people
 strong arts community
 Scenery
 Nature
 It's where my friends are
 close proximity to lakes/ivers
 Good sense of community
 Close to nature
 Small town feel
 Music and Art
 Opportunity for high-quality living
 Access to the outdoors
 LOW CRIME / VIOLENCE
 Nature in and around grand rapids
 Growing
 Small town feel with plenty of ammenities
 people
 Traffic isn't a huge concern
 Access to lakes
 The city itself is actually very beautiful
 closeness
 Arts and Culture
 Clean and well maintained environment
 Being so close to clean lakes and rivers
 Parks and trails, natural resources close
 Accessibility to nature
 Sorry there is more negative things can't think of any
 Proximity to the water
 Basic needs can be purchased in town
 Great Public Facilities Like Schools, Library, Athletic
 Infrastructure
 Trees and nature in neighborhoods
 Good amount of parks, natural environment
 Lakes + Rivers
 Small town atmosphere
 Small town

Lack of sprawl and heavy traffic
 emergency services are the best
 Easy to get around. Well marked locations.
 Multiple opportunities for dining and recreation
 Smaller community
 physical beauty
 History of the area
 Convenience of all amenities
 accessibility, town is not too spread out
 Small community
 Arts and Cluture

 safe/clean town
 great natural resources
 Small town feel
 Safety
 Lakes area
 Clean Air
 Schools
 QUIET NEIGHBORHOODS
 historical sites
 Potential
 Opportunities to gather together with friends and family
 close to outdoor activities
 Natural settings are close at hand
 Access to forests
 Mom and Pop shops
 comfortable
 Close to family
 Balance of nature and convenient amenities
 Downtown revitalization efforts; walkability to amenities
 Access to local arts and culture
 Increasing number of young adults in community

 Small town feel
 Good health care facilities

 Access to Woods and Water
 Generally good road conditions
 Easy to get around--walkable/bikeable, manageable
 traffic
 small town feel
 Accessible outdoor recreation
 Access to public lands

All Responses**Responses**

more nature places to see within the city
 transportation
 more trails, paths, and parks - outdoor activities
 affordability
 Shit plant stink
 Safer biking in town. On the road is not an option when you have kids
 Better variety of businesses allowed
 Help with revitalizing north side of town
 More reliable public transportation
 Shopping/restaurants
 Cory council that works on behalf of the people rather than operating in a self serving manner
 More affordable housing for working class
 Better roads in winter
 Increase walkability/bikeability
 more bike trails
 free hot lunch for all in our schools
 Pedestrian safety
 Larger retail for clothes
 Less government
 More varied businesses/small restaurants
 Retail shopping
 I wish there was a department store like Kohl's
 Quality athletic opportunities for youth
 Decreased taxes
 Higher paying jobs
 Lower housing rates
 easier crossing of highways 2 and 169
 Traffic from 4-5pm during the week
 More industry jobs
 Family centered activity areas
 More Retail Choices
 more restaurant options
 Less people doing drugs at every single park in town, hard to even enjoy going for a walk
 Confusing signs
 Lower taxes
 Get rid of stupid politicians
 Amenities
 more pet-friendly places
 more shopping options
 more retail shopping and meeting places, in the winter there are few places to meet with people
 accountability
 Stink of shit plant
 Safer walking- on the road is not an option when you have kids. Some streets do not even have sidewalks!
 Hwy to cohasset 4 lanes
 Revamp downtown
 More child care services
 Lower taxes
 School board that makes decisions based on community desires rather than self serving.
 More clothing outlets
 Fewer potholed
 Invest in downtown
 more businesses / jobs
 shopping options - clothing
 More housing
 Community indoor area for youth
 Early childhood improvements
 Affordable housing for the middle income families
 More activities for Children in the winter (indoor playground)
 School district leadership
 Business development incentive
 Less taxes
 More retail
 more sidewalks and more designated and marked bike routes
 Speed limits in areas need to be faster
 Traffic through town
 A focus on healthy,natural living: co-op, gardens, parks,bike ways
 Economic Growth
 more grocery store options
 Better roads with less potholes
 City government being more business friendly
 A couple of families rule the city...sad
 Better job opportunities

Walkable shopping area
 More retail clothing stores
 More diversity
 Another bridge/lanes across river.
 Bigger medical facility
 More business
 Increase downtown community
 Retail shopping
 Traffic is horrible now and roads need improvements.
 Commercial building codes for rustic designs
 roadways less potholes
 Affordable housing
 Need more affordable housing
 more activities for young adults
 More places to rent bikes
 Unique restaurants, eateries, foodtruck parkrk
 Better street quality
 Public transportation
 Lower real estate taxes
 More activities
 Easier access of transportation
 Would love better walking paths
 Many buildings need upgrading or need to be tore down
 Transportation for low income people
 Lower taxes
 Continued improvement with shops/restaurants
 Less stop lights on hwy 2
 More retail stores to bring in people to GR
 Industry brought in
 The appearance of downtown and the corridors east/west into town to make it a more appealing & attractive city.
 Giving kids the opportunity to learn a second language in elementary schools
 Revitalized, walk-able, downtown, similar to Bemidji
 There is no place to buy clothes for the family really
 available child care
 Uber
 Taxes & spending

Better transportation options
 More affordable housing
 Healthy food options
 Daycare
 More green space for kids sporting events
 More activities for kids
 Retail shopping
 Less development outside of town.
 Increased diversity of stores
 Beautification of the town plant some tree's in front of that big blue box
 Incentives for recycling
 Easier fishing spots by the river
 More big store clothing shopping
 Affordable housing
 More stores, restaurants, employment
 Improved family activities and parks
 Indoor winter activities
 Increase in Curb appeal to this town
 Taxes
 Control neighbors that leave their dogs out to bark!!!!
 Speed humps in neighborhoods
 turf fields
 More options for all sports. Dome or sports facility (turf options and volleyball-basketball-pickle ball courts, walking track for public use etc).
 High paying jobs
 A third downtown crossing of the Mississippi River to improve traffic flow. The bottlenecks at both the Pokegama and Horn bridges are really a mess.
 Having more full day childcare options
 More options for jobs
 Too many fast food places not enough quality restaurants
 affordable housing
 Restaurants
 We need to attract people that are contributing to the town instead of just taking services

Better paved trails connecting Rapids and Cohasset
 Fix the roads
 More options for retail.
 Can't think of anything now
 Update businesses
 Job Market
 Large Retailers (Kohl's, TJMaxx, JCPenney
 NEED FOR MORE DINING/SMALL RETAIL
 Decent rentals for families
 Lower your spending to lower our property taxes!
 drug and crime problem
 More diverse dining choices (no more pizza joints!)
 Transportation
 Lower taxes
 less expensive theatre productions
 Free youth activities
 Cleaning up old buildings/stores
 Clean up empty, abandoned store / retail areas
 Increasing jobs (quality)
 More affordable housing
 Youth things
 walkable spaces
 Need better jobs with real livable wages not retail jobs
 More restaurants, more shopping, whole sale shop (costco)
 increased senior living options
 Access to GPZ for commercial air
 Better jobs = better quality of life
 Get rid of drugs and crime
 Basic middle class needs - jobs, housing, childcare, internet
 more trees and natural landscaping
 The appearance of older neighborhoods really suggests the City needs to start a rehab loan program with an agency like KOOTASCA
 public transportation
 Transportation (non-personal-car)
 More small business with better hours
 I do a lot of online shopping or go to Duluth because there is not enough options for clothing and things I am interested to update my home.
 We could benefit from having a menards, hobby

Better fields for kids sports, winters are long and spring and fall sports suffer
 Less section 8 housing
 Indoor park playground for kids.
 Can't think of anything now
 More childcare!
 Safety
 Tearing down the old Rainbow Inn it's a total eye sore
 KEEP DOWNTOWN ALIVE WITH RETAIL
 More paved walking/biking paths
 Lower taxes to future business.
 revamp county assistance programs - too many people taking advantage of it
 Better and more year round community events (take note of Bemidji offerings!)
 Shopping
 Less handouts and social service programs
 Police patrol on bikes
 Improve roads/potholes
 More jobs at middle income levels
 Training for skilled workforce
 More affordable shopping downtown
 Shopping
 help for homeless
 More indoor activities for kids. Indoor play zones/trampoline park
 use the river as an accent
 Bullet train to Duluth
 Bring in businesses that will pay people to stay here.
 Get rid of welfare for people choosing drugs over self care
 Restaurants and retail
 safer walking and biking
 County government doesn't support economic development in Grand Rapids
 affordable housing availability
 More trees/flowers/nature downtown
 Affordable healthy food options
 I feel like we have a lot of fun activities and community events during the summer but not very much in the fall, spring, and especially winter months. People often isolate and mental health

lobby, kohls, TJ Max etc.. I love to support the local businesses but with the high cost of living, it is not feasible or realistic and often do not carry what I am looking for. Latvala lumber usually are more known for licensed contractors and so that leaves home depot as our only other option for home improvement needs. Kohls has more options for clothing are just some examples. We continue to build fast food chains and car part stores rather than focusing on variety.

Open govt. relationship

restaurant options

Road pavements.

Reduce very high city taxes and assessments

Roads

More shopping options

More mental health jobs

Career growth

Update retail spaces or properties to better serve the community

Having a quik trip

Modifications for ride share like uber or Lyft. It creates jobs for people & keeps people safe.

Access to a bulk store like Costco which would provide affordable organic options.

roads repair

Public Transportation

Transportation

A person needs a vehicle to get around

Better shopping for visitors/tourist industry

less run down neighborhoods

Beautify city by removing overhead powerlines and making west end more appealing

Property taxes are TERRIBLY HIGH

Cheaper gas,

Lower taxes.

Youth activities

Better Restaurants

Living

Allowing more retail shops in our town

More bike trails

Better food options-groceries and restaurants

Child care, indoor play place options for kids

symptoms usually increases around the winter months and having more community events in the winter months can encourage/give people an opportunity to get out and get connected and be more active.

Lower taxes

walkable downtown / river front

Local business growth

Make the town more tolerant and friendly

Retail so I can shop locally

More dining options (not bars)

Activities for adults

Better shopping choices

Try to bring in more industry and jobs to draw people to the community

More things for small kids or birthdays that are inexpensive

More things for millennials to do.

The morning traffic flow from powers hill to the stop light by central school.

Higher wages for non professional jobs

More jobs for young families

I question how open the community is to diversity in residents and business owners

Focus on zoning so that businesses are easier to find.

better sidewalks

Improve and expand riverwalk

I

Less fast food places. Bring in a Qdoba, or a salad bar, erberts and gerberts

Senior activities

Better Shopping

Street work

Attraction for young families to come here and/or stay here

More bike trails

More options for young kids- programming, yoga, indoor activity center, etc.

Stop increases taxes for those already paying high taxes. We are already the back bones of the

Reduce the focus of social programs that attract
noon productive citizens to the area

IMCare

Less welfare

Improved ATV Trail Access in GR

More store options

West side street appeal

Cheaper gas

More routes for traffic. The amount of vehicles in
town is crazy.

Reduce low income housing
crime

STOP WITH THE LOW INCOME HOUSING!!

Modernize business fronts

Add more retail stores

more options for kids - ie trampoline park, splash
pad

more business friendly to young millennials with
good ideas

More healthy choices when eating out

Lower taxes

UBER!! WAKE UP AND REALIZE ITS 2019

Jobs

Lower Taxes

Family clothing store

Poverty

Access to affordable childcare

Variety in Grocery shopping

Preserve local history and buildings- Quit tearing
everything down (like older buildings and
schools.)

Lower gasoline prices

Reduced crime

Public transportation

Cut taxes and wasteful spending

More private sector jobs

Decrease the influx of non working population

Lower our taxes

Tear down the "ghetto" all the way to the car wash

Stop investing into low income things and focus
on growing the middle class instead

Lowering property taxes

community and it's deterring people from wanting to
live here.

Improve non-motorized access to town and along
roadsides

Less low income housing

More senior care

Affordable

development of the east side of town

Better stores

Old buildings need to go.

Eliminate drug dealing issues

**TAXES ARE OUTRAGES COMPARED TO MOST
OF THE STATE**

Attract new business with high-paying jobs

Add more affordable assistive living for seniors

public transportation

More quality jobs

Better paying jobs

Jobs

Less Government

Community gathering space besides Timberlake
lodge

Drug Use

More childcare options

Cotton school has reused the old school into a
viable community space. Business and shops can
coexist while still holding onto the towns history. .

Traffic controls on Golf Course Road

Permanent year round employment

Fix turning lane on 169 going north across from
central school. Traffic backs up to the hill after work
hours

Better paying jobs

Lower city and county taxes

No more public housing projects and decrease
spending

Quit wasting money on looks

More education against drugs, gangs, etc

Focus on job growth for middle income

Getting rid of the over spending city councilman

More childcare availabilities
 More options for kids
 More/better sidewalks
 More family buildings for activities
 More shops for locals and tourists
 Lower taxes
 Improve roads
 More multi-generational activities
 Pass policy to limit substance use
 Prejudice
 More well paying jobs
 Street maintenance
 Cut taxes
 Gas prices
 Career jobs
 Lower taxes
 Gas prices
 the back up of traffic when coming into downtown
 from the south
 Better jobs
 Hwy 2
 Traffic lights on Pokegema need synchronized.
 Traffic backup is awful up to 4th street.
 More and better housing options
 more physical activities to do in the winter
 Attract small business so we don't have empty
 lots/mall locations
 Drug task force
 Better paying job market
 Don't like driving thru run down areas to get
 places
 relaxed development requirements
 Less commercial emphasis on the outskirts of the
 city and more focus on keeping a vibrant (and full)
 downtown area
 We need a large clothing store (e.g. Kohls) so I
 don't have to drive to Duluth to shop.
 Fine dining
 Roads
 Quit bringing in people to add to welfare system
 Traffic
 We make too much money for public preschool,
 so Better private preschool transportation and
 daycare
 keep streets pothole free

More public preschool availabilities
 More small town shopping
 More places for teens to have a safe place to go
 after school or on the weekends
 More sit down restaurants for locals and tourists
 Better recreational trail access
 Community volunteer improvement projects vs tax
 funded
 Artificial turf for our sports fields
 Honesty of politics
 Healthcare for all
 Address blighted structures
 Private industry
 city government needs to be less strict
 Children activity center
 more downtown parking
 More community outreach on mental health and
 substance abuse
 Air transport
 Find a way to bring new business in
 better shoulders on the highways to bike/walk
 More community events and gatherings
 Better dpwntown
 Year round playground areas
 Promote and build on our natural outdoor resources
 lower property taxes
 Create more livable space where people can walk
 from their homes to places of business.
 We need more "non" fast food restaurants (no more
 pizza or burger places).
 More green space/ parks
 Dining options other than bars
 Lower taxes
 Welfare
 Gas prices are ridiculous in grand rapids
 additional quality restaurants

Downtown
 Better retail choices for shopping
 Womens Clothing store
 Restaurant selection is pathetic
 cost of living, Taxes high
 Affordable and available child care
 Stop lights at 169/2
 Biking from one end to another NOT on road. I would go over blocks for trail
 walkability of northwest neighborhood/businesses
 Grocery stores
 lower property taxes
 walkability/bikability of the city from north to south
 Lower taxes
 Reduce traffic flow through the city
 Noise pollution from vehicles!!
 No more police brutality
 Need a stronger economy
 More regulation on how things look, less trashy looking buildings/businesses
 Job Diversity
 Need for more clothing options to decrease need to run to Duluth or other bigger cities
 Farmers market year round indoors in winter
 more/better sidewalks for walking/biking etc.
 Highway bypasses to reduce traffic
 Access to better local shopping
 Better Jobs, preferably green technologies.
 Better paying good jobs - not retail or food
 Traffic flow through town, ie: stop lights & turn lanes
 Visually appealing business
 Retail shops in town
 Diversity in restaurants
 The area on Hwy 2 going to Cohasset could be cleaned up and get some different businesses in that area. Better gas stations!
 Improvements to Farmers Market, better access to local foods.
 Good paying jobs to keep families here
 Housing Costs Market and or better quality construction
 Traffic 169 & 2 intersection
 Highway around Grand Rapids

Big retailers come.
 More accessible/safer gas stations
 Development of the Mississippi Corridor
 retail shopping, clothing
 Need to be aware of anti-tax group and racism.
 Itasca Taxpayers Alliance
 Another bridge
 places to let your dog run around
 Hotels
 improved snow plowing of roads/sidewalks
 less big box stores, more locally owned stores
 Less people living on welfare/working the system
 Lower taxes
 Re-route trucks so they aren't passing through residential neighborhoods
 Mental health improvements
 We need to attract more businesses
 More revitalization of places like downtown, less money going to welfare programs. Will do nothing for future economic growth.
 Child care accessibility
 A lot of building appear run down and need some work
 Mandatory recycling
 More retail
 Lower cost of living
 Better more affordable housing
 Better road conditioners
 To many obstacles for new businesses to locate here
 Investment in greenspace
 Indoor toddler activities
 Improvements to downtown, especially the Old Central School- it's so beautiful, but not being utilized to it's full potential.
 On HWY 2 having paved trails to walk kn
 Continue to support the Community to Build a Food Co-op to increase access to local food.
 Better use of buildings or land that is available
 Kohl's
 Bust up the gas station cartel.

Needless spending by city and county.
 More bicycle access
 More eating options, fine dining
 Diversify career options
 Get rid of corrupt cops
 Bigger mall, something to do in the Winter.
 Available workforce
 More free events
 Shopping opportunities
 Increased transportation options
 Lower taxes
 More Retail shopping choices
 It needs it's whimsy back
 Eateries
 Downtown shopping with independent ownership
 More manufacturing jobs
 We need to have shops that have enough inventory that we can find what we need.
 Economic Development - good paying jobs
 senior housing inexpensive
 Remove septic smell issue in town.
 lower property taxes
 establish a pedestrian friendly area of the core & hwy2/169 intersection
 Parks
 traffic
 More shopping available.
 More law enforcement presence (bikes)
 expensive taxes keep going up
 Uber / Lyft Service
 More shopping options
 Housing
 roads on neighborhood streets
 improving the workforce to help the young w/ less education
 Indoor Space - IRA civic center remodeling
 I wish there were more good paying jobs for young people
 Good jobs with livable wages
 More living wage jobs
 More dining & retail

More diversity in retail sales outlets.
 Better downtown area with restaurants and bars within safe walking distance.
 More shopping options, tired of haveing to go to DLH for either of these
 More affordable but not "low income" apartments
 Get rid of corrupt cops and bureaucrats too
 Indoor playground or trampoline park (Children's museum is great!!)
 Restaurants
 Parks events
 Restaurants
 Shopping options
 Better Restaurant choices
 City Hall needs to listen to it's citizens and not their friends
 Entertainment
 Downtown shopping with clothing, crafts, restaurants for choices
 Updated diwntown
 Transportation options
 Retail womens clothing
 Lower cost of living, taxes, etc.
 ease of doing business---GR officials make it difficult to start a business here
 Shopping
 stop/get a handle on urban sprawl
 Healthy food/organic food options.
 More shopping opportunities
 Lower Taxes
 Make hiway 2 four lanes in both directions
 Public transportation
 Not having everything on the south side of town
 better retail shopping
 Enforcement of Blight Rule - homes and property
 Daycare needs to be more available
 4 wheel trails, activities for families
 More dining places
 Uber, improving transport oppportunities for elderly population

The walkability for students especially
Public transportation
better paying jobs
Cost of living
day care options, not government run

Downtown is terrible for walking.

BRING IN BOX STORES

Lower taxes
increased industry/manufacturing that provide
good paying jobs
Better paying jobs
Updating the parks (replacing with quality and
more modern equipment; playground, bathroom,
etc.)
developing a business reason to be in Grand
Rapids
Better paying jobs, less retail/restaurant jobs
Job development
large retailers (kohls, old navy)
more healthy food options and eateries
More job availability for college educated
individuals
Improve pedestrian access and safety --
especially downtown
More Shopping - big box retail
Lower taxes
Taking a right turn at stoplight at Brew's is
dangerous! Fix it.
more active/visible police presence on streets
Better or more community events
Retail shopping
Better Shopping oportunities
Availability of access to Indigenous people to
services in our town; ie homeownership etc. as a
result of perceived/actual racism.
Department stores
More inclusive events/safe spaces for all
Better shopping options
More focus on diverse, local food options instead
of fast food and more options for fresh, healthy
food
More manufacturing and industrial job prospects
Focus on supporting local businesses

Commitment to perserving and improving
downtown
More fresh local foods, a plastic free store
more competitive businesses for better prices and
quality
Oppertunities

Having two major highways going through
downtown is idiotic. Makes walking through
downtown dangerous. These should not be four
lane roads if you want people to walk around.

REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

Less government involvement

less government

Get the drugs out of our community

Brining our downtown back; to attract visitors and
tourism.

lower taxes

Reduce the social services lifestyle

more restaurants (not fast food)

take out the cobble stone pavement

revitalizing the old kmart building

Invest in development of the riverfront --
thoughtfully-- to preserve natural area but also
capitalize on the great asset of the river downtown!

More Shopping choices

Engage the community in revamping the parks

Less fast food, more authentic foods

More culture

Railroad track bypass

Smaller shops and support for entrepreneurs

Fixed pot holes on roads

More recreational options.

Adopting a development plan that requires green
space at the curb for all future business
development

Lower Taxes and cost of living

More attractive, inviting appearance to the town for
visitors

a larger store that offers all eg: Kohls
 One central park.
 Diverse Restaurants
 Lower property taxes!!!
 More traffic control by law enforcement
 More activities for young families and teens
 Better paying jobs
 Congestion is a major problem
 Drug rate decline
 Bring in more businesses for jobs to retain population
 Employment opportunities - better wages
 lower taxes on businesses
 Need more child care options
 More community events-parades, outdoor music events for young people
 Traffic
 Retail
 Hwy 169 & hwy 2 congestion
 more retail for those who don't feel comfortable using online shopping
 Sidewalks
 Increase in police patrol. Keeping drugs out of the community
 Ecological Tourism, ie. Rose Garden at the Blandin site
 Better online presence for community resources ie. Forms/Documents
 More things to do for youth in the community.
 More higher paying jobs with benefits
 More large employers
 Our roads need significant attention.
 better bus/taxi service
 Free activities or cheaper for bigger families
 lower taxes
 Road safety
 Fix the roads- the potholes are awful!!
 More affordable, good quality access to women's clothing
 more good paying jobs (not fast food)

Focus on local businesses, no more big box stores period.

Retail for clothing
 Noise control
 More stuff to do on rainy or cold days
 Affordable housing
 Youth activities, kids have nothing to do if not in sports
 Revitalize downtown
 More affordable housing
 Health fast casual dining
 a focused city council bent on increasing the desirability of Grand Rapids to businesses. Its time for the good old boys to go.
 Need large retail clothing options
 More places for teenagers to get together without spending a lot of money
 Lower taxes
 Transportation to mn international airport

we need more community events for all ages especially our senior citizens
 Snowplowing streets
 Safer walking/ biking across hwy 169 from north side of town to south side of town. Same for hwy 38 going east to west
 Walking/biking trail ALONG the River from one end of town to other
 More community engagement and outreach online
 More places for young families to retain a younger population.
 Added retail

As a community, we need to help the unemployed find available jobs. The jobs are available however our social services aren't doing our community any favors.

more variety retail stores
 More adult activities
 lower taxes

Dealing with traffic at center of town

Encourage diversity even more!!

lower taxes stop spending us out of the area

Shopping choices: department store

Parks

Better use of Old Central School as a community hub

Real Estate Tax reduction

Too many neighborhoods are being over taken by drugs and crime

More shops, and restaurants, places to go, etc..

Better roads

Help the Central School space thrive.

Mental health facility

Access to different restaurants (e.g., thai food takeout).

large clothing retail store

Less railroad disturbance

Sadly, I feel GR is an ugly town. There are many unattractive/run down buildings. If the town looked more appealing, it would draw more people in

Retail

more competitive stores

Retail stores. No shopping for middle class families at all.

Invigorate downtown, conversion of old buildings-tie in River, we are "grand rapids" and a perfect fit

lower taxes

More options for clothes shopping

Diverse food options outside of pizza and burgers

Attract and retain more young people

Food coop

Gas prices no longer higher then surrounding towns

Downtown needs new life. A parking lot is the center of it

People are NOT nice, nor friendly

This area can be very cliqueish

Investment in the Downtown

Would like to see more local restaurants that use local food

cost of living

better/more jobs

More diverse restaurants

all recreational areas need to be self-sufficient, not tax based

walkable downtown without having to cross highway 2

Walk and bike paths

More employment opportunities

Affordable housing

Home values are in jeopardy due to aging and unmaintained homes, but property taxes increase

More trails for walking, biking, etc.

Better jobs

Encourage downtown development.

Decrease in drug use

Need of better bike routes for commuting.

improve bullying in schools

Move airport further East

A Tesla supercharger!!!

Lower Taxes

Better housing situations and landlord regulations

More business friendly environment at town hall, more off "how can we work together" instead of "you have to do this"

more variety of family activities

Safe parks

Better grocery and restaurant choices

Better biking trails, paths on roads

Cost of living

Single family homes in town and accessible

the "haves" and people "from here" are snobby and ignore the "have nots" or worse

retail/restaurant options

Easing of some restrictions on serving alcohol at community events

Downtown developed with small boutique retail and a ped bridge across highway #2

taxes

healthier restaurants

Thoughtful plan to sustainably utilize riverfront-underutilized

requiring students to ride buses rather than drive to school would reduced traffic. there was a time only seniors could drive to school, jrs could if working or doctor appt, no one under 11th grade could drive to

Cost of housing
 Taxes are too high
 retail
 Jobs...I work too many to make ends meet
 Revitalization and Development of retail in downtown
 retail/restuarant diversity
 Better local restaurants
 Taxes are outrageous
 More downtown revitalizing, less urban sprawl
 decrease bike lanes that came into existence at the sacrifice of vehicular traffic lanes
 Beter routing of traffic from south of town to downtown
 More larger scale development, less strip malls and fast food
 Retail box Department Store
 Better shopping
 More well-paying jobs
 Better downtown walk-ability
 LARGE SCALE EMPLOYER PAYING LIVING WAGES
 Lower Taxes
 More people shopping locally and supporting small businesses
 More diverse choices in shopping
 Crime / drug use
 Lower property taxes
 Public Transportation (uber/lyft)
 more retail
 Improved options for immediate access to a variety of retail
 Better side streets

 Further downtown revitalization

 Reliable public transportation with wider reach and hours of operation
 Better access to daycare/childcare for working parents
 Fix the smell from sewage plant
 Way more sidewalks
 Affordable housing for working families
 A four year college
 Better attention to neighborhood crime

school. would save a ton on parking lot accidents/upkeep
 Access to healthy meal options.
 Not enough economic development
 sports facilities
 Roads are not well kept in town

 Reduction of taxes
 lower gas prices
 More non religious preschools and daycares

 Plant more pine trees and other conifers
 Have the City of GR reduce it's appetite for new taxation when the town is not really growing
 Less fast food and better variety of sit down restaurants
 Revitalized downtown

 High paying jobs
 Housing of all types
 More choices of restaurants in downtown area
 BETTER ROADS
 Transparent Government/Schools

 Businesses that stay open later for working people
 Business / need more good jobs
 No more subsidized housing
 More businesses/diners in downtown
 more tax base
 Somehow improve traffic lights to manage traffic going north on 169 through town - at all times
 Better control of speeding traffic
 Expanded economic development that brings living wage jobs and encourages smaller mom/pop ventures
 Increase diversity inclusiveness and reduce prejudice
 More side walks

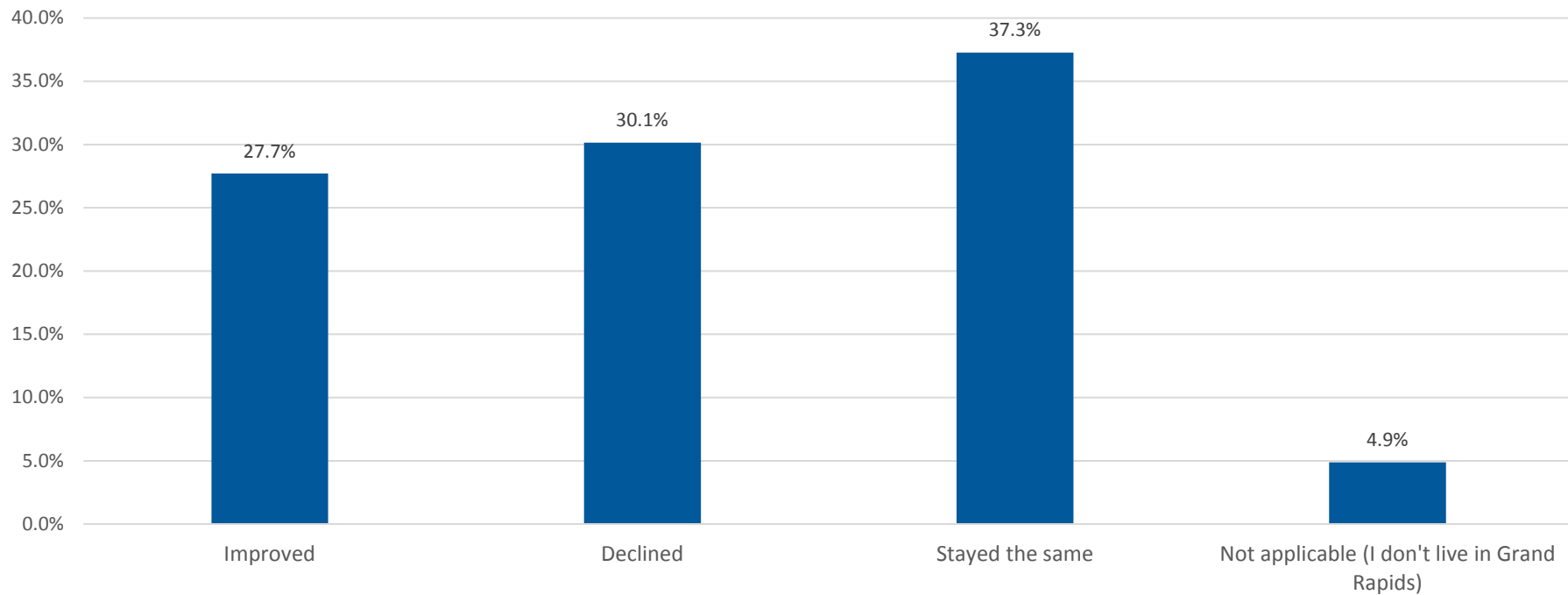
 public marina on Pokegama
 Property taxes lowered (increases make it difficult for seniors/Lower income to stay in homes)
 More daycare/early childhood opportunities
 Winter road maintenance with skilled drivers i.e. like we had 10 years ago

Make better use of the river front
improve traffic flow on pokegama avenue
More Around the clock Childcare options
Traffic flow downtown

More restaurants downtown

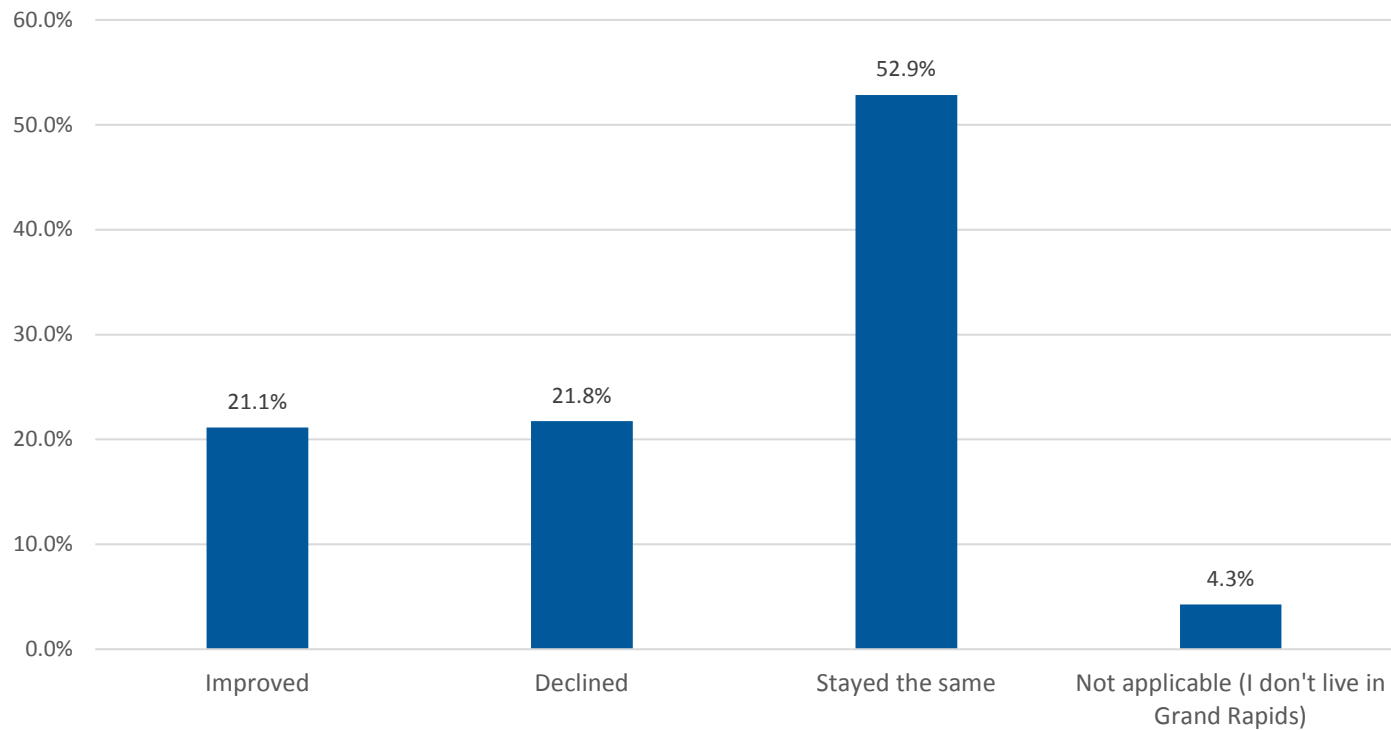
Question 18: In your experience, has the overall quality of life in Grand Rapids improved, declined, or stayed the same?

Answer Choices	Responses
Improved	136
Declined	148
Stayed the same	183
Not applicable (I don't live in Grand Rapids)	24
Total respondents	491



Question 19: In recent years, has the overall quality of municipal services (e.g., police protection, road maintenance, etc.) improved, declined, or stayed the same?

Answer Choices	Responses
Improved	104
Declined	107
Stayed the same	260
Not applicable (I don't live in Grand Rapids)	21
Total respondents	492

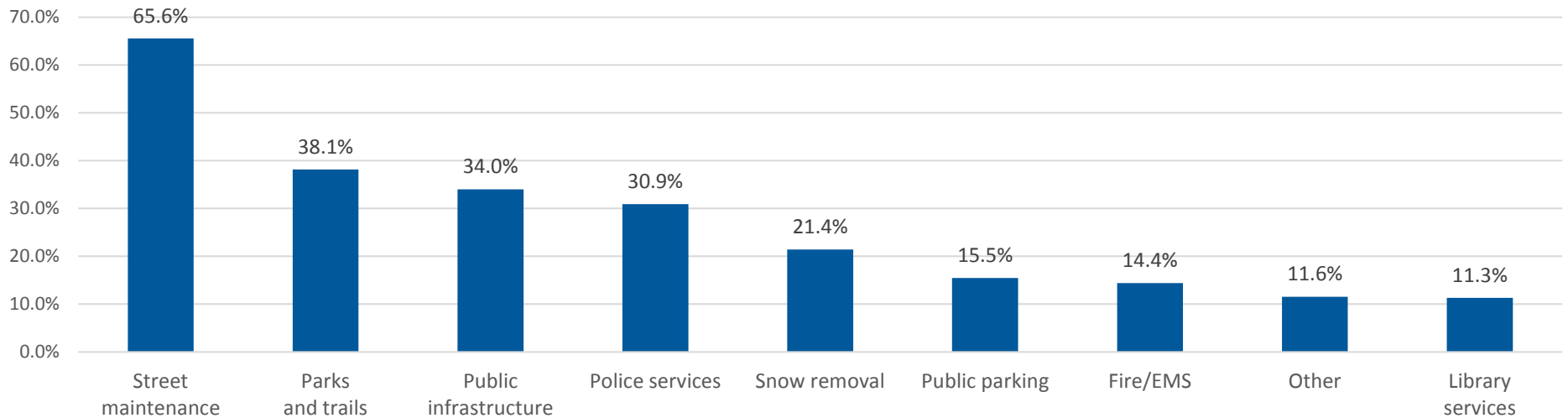


Question 20: Where should the City focus investments to improve the quality or availability of basic public services or facilities? (Select up to 3)

Answer Choices	Responses
Street maintenance	318
Parks and trails	185
Public infrastructure (sanitary sewer, water, and storm water)	165
Police services	150
Snow removal	104
Public parking	75
Fire/EMS response	70
Other*	56
Library services	55
Total respondents	485

Open-ended responses (Other)

- Housing for homeless and substance abusers
- Sidewalk maintenance
- Remove overhead powerlines
- Wastewater treatment plant/odor
- Motorized trails
- Recycling
- Support for downtown business
- Traffic congestion on Pokegama Ave
- Tackling substance abuse

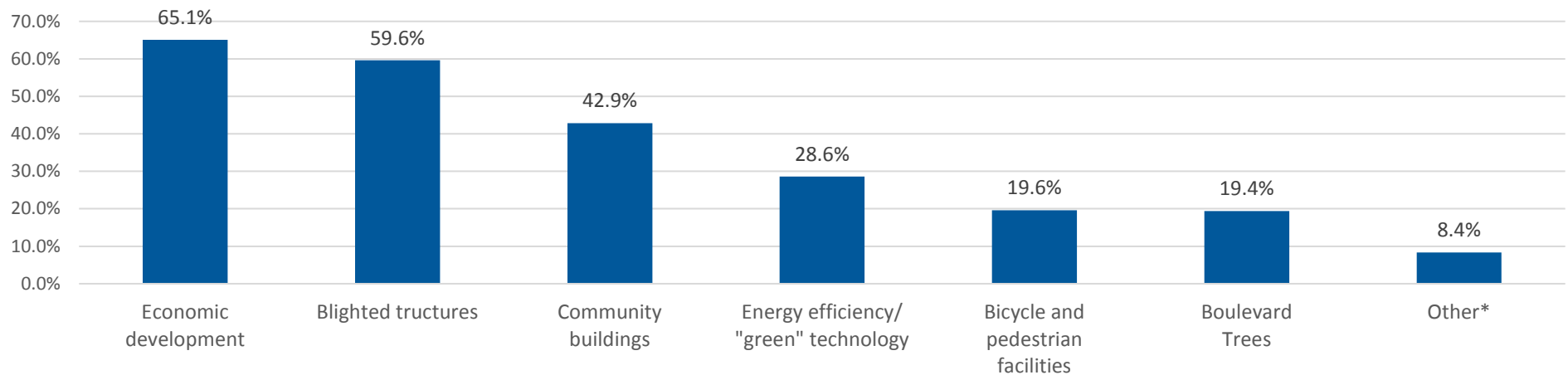


Question 21: Where should the City focus investments to improve the quality or availability of other public services or facilities?

Answer Choices	Responses
Economic development (i.e., infrastructure or incentives)	319
Blighted structures	292
Community buildings	210
Energy efficiency/ "green" technology	140
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities	96
Boulevard trees	95
Other*	41
Total respondents	490

Open-ended responses (Other)

- Medical facilities
- Child care
- Homeless shelters
- Public pool
- Motorized trails
- Recycling
- Support for downtown business
- Downtown aesthetics
- Adaptive reuse/rehabilitation of existing buildings
- Indoor entertainment options
- Rideshare services

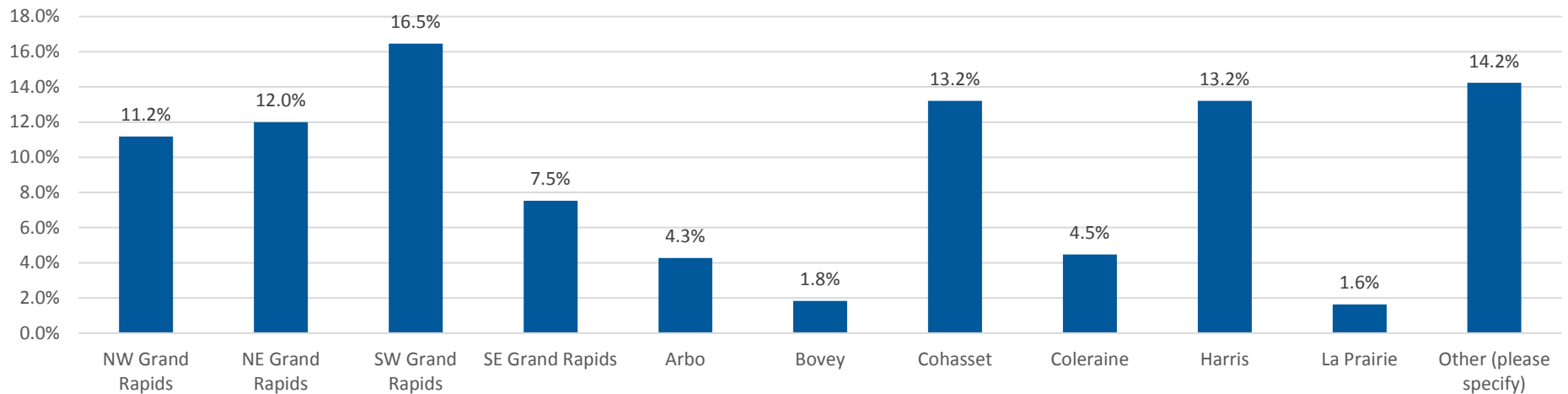


Question 22: In which area do you live?

Answer Choices	Responses
NW Grand Rapids	55
NE Grand Rapids	59
SW Grand Rapids	81
SE Grand Rapids	37
Arbo	21
Bovey	9
Cohasset	65
Coleraine	22
Harris	65
La Prairie	8
Other*	70
Total respondents	492

Open-ended responses (Other)

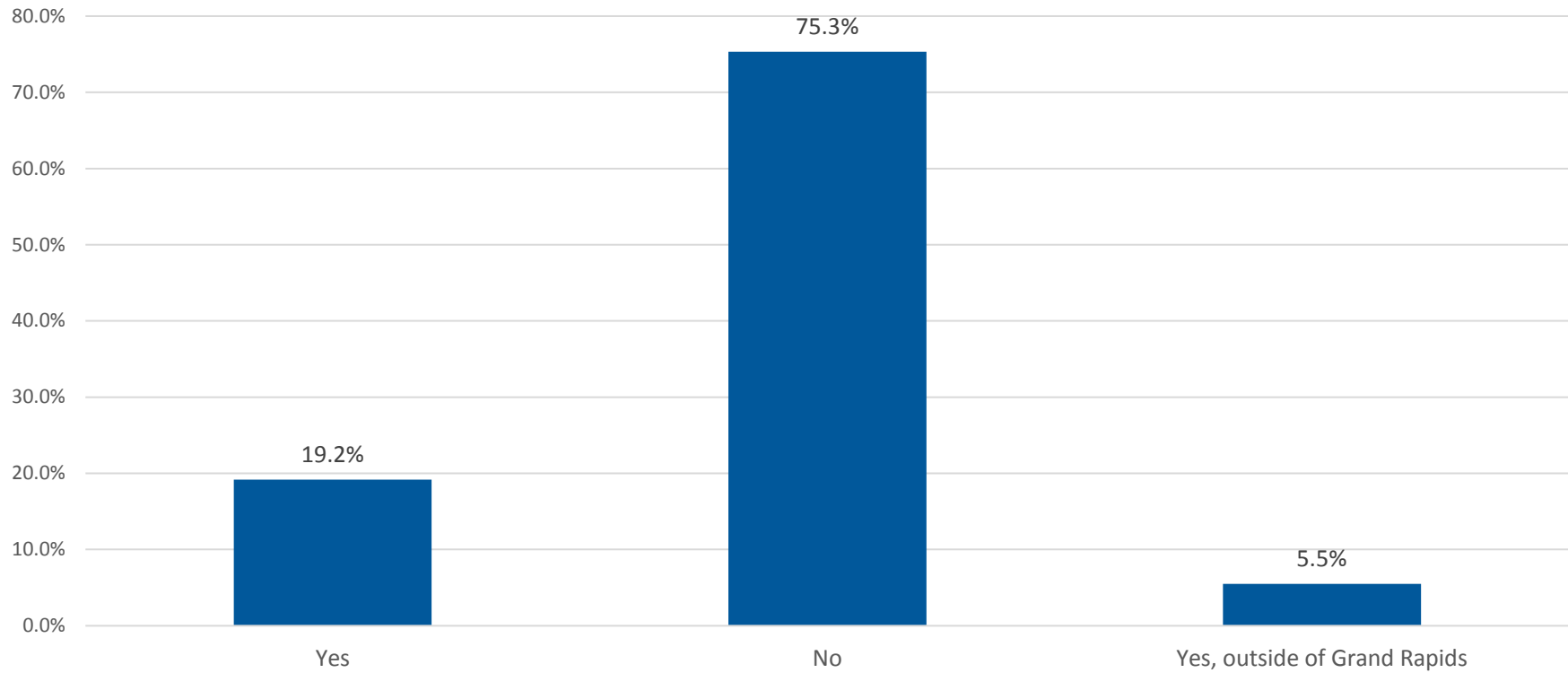
- Aitkin County - 1
- Balsam Township - 1
- Bemidji - 1
- Big Fork - 2
- Blackberry Township - 6
- Deer River - 2
- Duluth - 1
- Goodland - 2
- Hill City - 2
- Marble - 1
- McGregor - 1
- Minneapolis - 1
- Nashwauk Township - 4
- Spang Township - 1
- Splithand Township - 2
- Trout Lake Township - 3
- Unorganized Township - 5
- Wabana Township - 2
- Warba - 3



Question 23: Do you own a business in Grand Rapids?

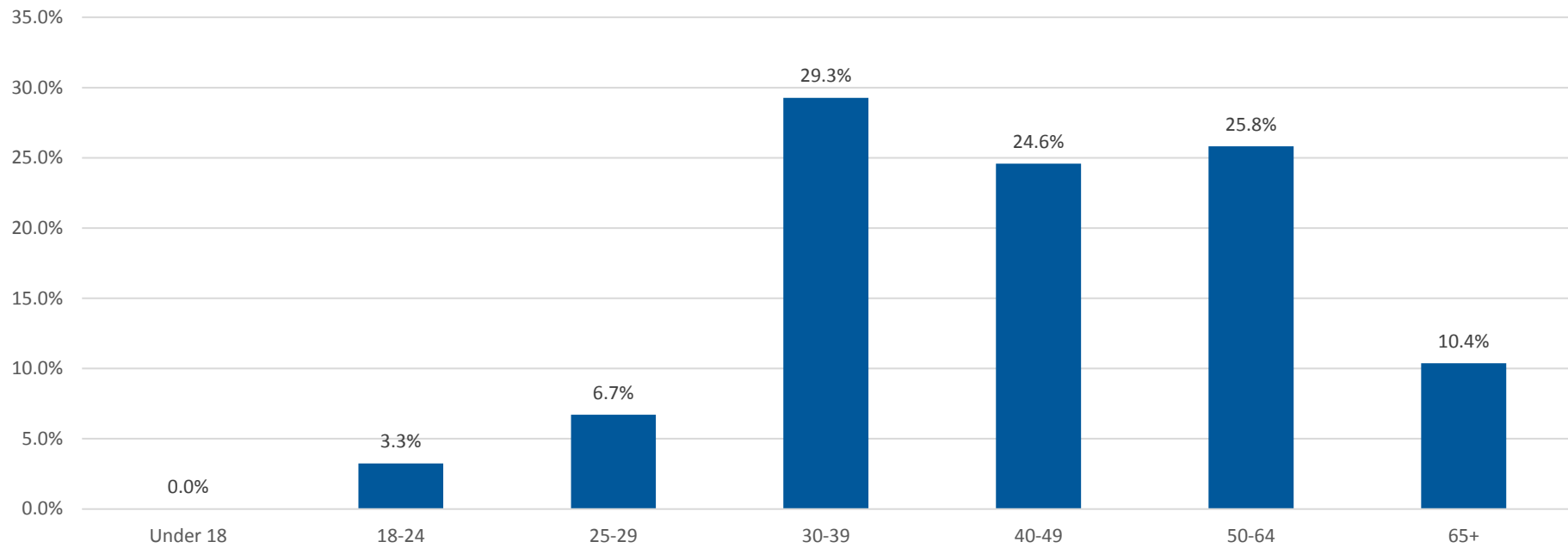
Answer Choices	Responses
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Yes	94
No	369
Yes, outside of Grand Rapids	27
Total respondents	490



Question 24: What is your age?

Answer Choices	Responses
Under 18	0
18-24	16
25-29	33
30-39	144
40-49	121
50-64	127
65 or over	51
Total respondents	492

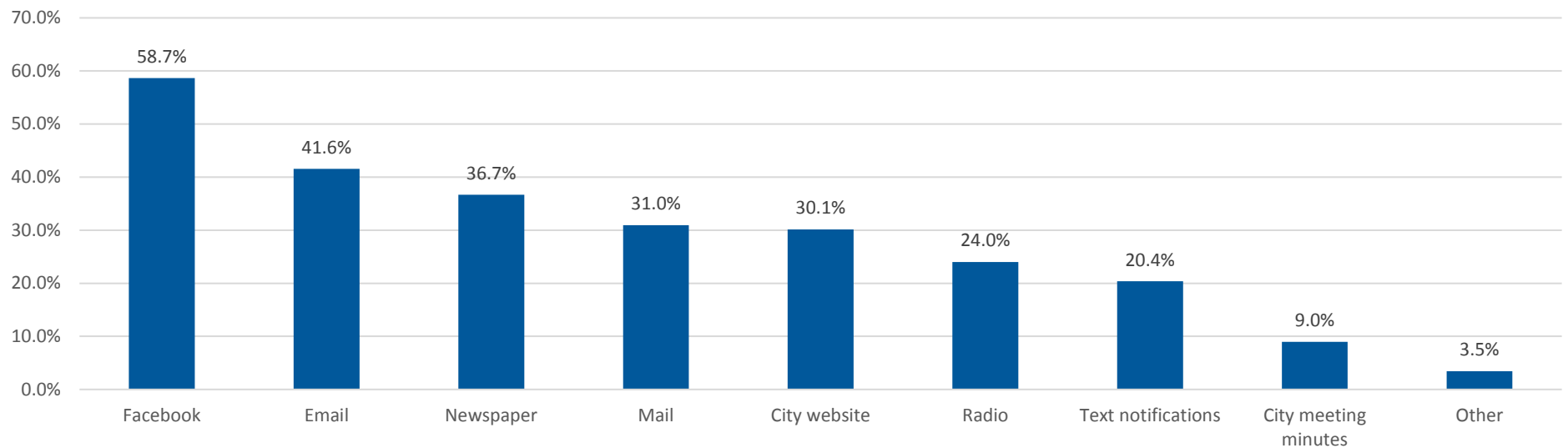


Question 26: What are the best ways for you to receive information and communications from the City of Grand Rapids? (Check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
Facebook	288
Email	204
Newspaper	180
Mail	152
City website	148
Radio	118
Text notifications	100
City meeting minutes	44
Other	17
Total	491

Other

- CTV
- City Council Meetings
- Instagram
- Chamber of Commerce
- Word of mouth



Question 27: Are there any improvements/actions you would like to see in Grand Rapids that were not covered in this survey? Please leave your comments below.

	Responses
1	<p>Forestry/timber and minerals/mining are of major importance to Grand Rapids - past, present, and future - and both need proper planning and comp plan provisions. It is easy for them to be overlooked. I have experience in these areas and know them well, but it appears that the current comp plan committee does not include much if any participation from these sectors. I certainly hope that shortcoming can be resolved before the comp plan update proceeds very far.</p> <p>I believe we need to continue working to attract small industries to diversity tax base for our city. Providing updated new elementary schools is a great start. The future loss of Boswell and reduced impact of Blandin make this imperative. Embracing diversity is a key to attracting new employees. I believe our social safety network is among the best. We also should not underestimate the impact of tourism on our region. The Mississippi River Bridge could be a focal point of tourism. We don't need to invent imaginary lumber (?) like some communities. We have a great variety of forested water venues to select from.</p>
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. overall more low income housing 2. more crisis beds for people with mental health that struggle from time to time. 3. education on mental health
3	<p>I'm really glad this is being done and sincerely hope you're hearing valuable input from the community. We especially need to hear from the 12-30 demographic as to community needs. They will determine our future viability.</p> <p>We very much need more retail and restaurants/meeting places. I love to see bike/walking trails and paths being installed (bridge across mississippi by KAXE)!!!</p> <p>We love Grand Rapids and intend to spend the rest of our life in this community. It would be great to see consistent improvement to see Grand Rapids be even grander.</p>
4	Tear down the rainbow!!!!!!
5	Fix the (wastewater) plant that has ungodly stink. Technology does exist for it.
6	We could use less taxes. Stop spending our money like it's free!
7	Childcare

8	Intersection of Hwy 169 & Hwy 2 need to be improved. The timing of the lights causes traffic to back up.
9	I absolutely DO NOT agree with a new building and interior for the Boys and Girls Club in Grand Rapids. They have ruined the library at GR middle school. No money there!!! Mismanaged totally!!!!
10	I believe Grand Rapids has made great progress in many ways over the past 5-10 years!
11	Extend the bike paths...ideally along the river, and from the forest history center to the tioga beach.
12	If you want to help the downtown, take back some of the parking area at Pokeg & 2nd St NW. 30 years ago we gave so much property to BPC to help them expand. It helped for a short time but some 800 jobs are gone and the property is vacant. Converted to city parking it would be a great help to the nearby CBD
13	Marina with dock space at the golf course with fuel
14	please plan for residents!
15	lower taxes
16	Medical care
17	Do away with large video screen signs
18	Welcome tourism spend money to attract people get rid of the physical disparities once and for all and create one of the TOP 100 small cities. Invest in our youth and keep them there.
19	1 - all inclusive playground 2 - handicap acessibility longer times at crosswalks, clear ALL sidewalks during winter. 3 - Cold weather relied station - warming houses for homeless (the shelter can't hold everyone) 4 - plan for addressing opoid crisis - jail isn't the answer 5 - Gov't agency (Courthouse, police, EMS, etc.) more training on mental health
20	None that I can think of.
21	Attfact more boutique type shopping, eating, and stays. Promote more celebrations and family events. Less brewery focus, and more historical retention.
22	Please publish results of survey. Keep the public informed through newspaper.

23	The taxes here make me, and many others want to move out of town. They are worse than Duluth and the twin cities. If this continues you will be loosing your community to greed. Businesses build just outside of town because the taxes are just insane. If you truly want a growing community you have to make it affordable. Everything is overpriced in Grand Rapids, this is why people buy gas outside of town and buy online. I seriously think Grand Rapids needs a refresh financially. With Blandin going out in 5 years or less we all may be hurting.
24	The 1-2 year waitlist for income based housing is ridiculous.
25	Turf the fields. Add on to the IRA. Add on to the YMCA. Tax bicycles and increase the sales tax.
26	More jobs with higher pay to sustain young families
27	Make the blandin park area look nice. Mow it n add trees. Benches maybe.
28	Wish they could have lifeguards at Blandin beach
29	Grand Rapids likes to tax & spend like they are Edina. This area is broke but whoever is in charge seems to think they can just take from taxpayers until they break them. Fiscal disparities and high local taxes won't draw any new, desirable businesses in and we don't need more places to drink since that seems to be the only growth around. I can't imagine being able to afford to retire here (that would be around 2040). You want to improve Grand Rapids? Stop living in Fairy Tale Land and start addressing how to keep people from leaving that contribute to the economy while drawing in those that take from the economy, bring drug problems and other assorted issues here. This used to be a great place to live and raise a family. I'm just waiting for my kids to graduate so we can get out unless something drastically changes in the next few years.
30	Connecting Grand Rapids and Cohasset with paved trails.
31	Kwik Trip
32	Improve the flow of traffic.. syncing the stop lights. Why did Walmart move farther out of town? Why did UBC leave, why is everything so scattered around the town? Healy care out on the west side, college on the east side. Reif on the north, businesses going south. Open the lakes inside and around the town with more accessibility for picnic area or tables and benches, and walk ways around the lakes... each community will have something cheap to do and as a family. Get the roller rinks improved. City maintained if a business can't do it affordably for families.. the Y cost too much. Anything there is as a recreational business the city can do just the same at a cost too or lower the taxes and business license to keep entrepreneurs here ... get rid of the micro brewery's. They are a fad and how many children need a beer or see parents drinking and then in this part of the country or county there is too much depression associated with seasons.. fret in summer but stats show 80 % will have SAD effects once winter comes. That's when free or inexpensive recreational events are needed to get families out of the house. More related facts should be shared with people who live here in northland. Have lots more things to say.

33	Pay attention to tax structure and incentives to encourage and enhance variety of good retail shopping downtown. Unfortunately RR // divide the town but we need to Revitalize DOWNTOWN- I don't see people walking to shop. No more non-profits downtown. Improve curb appeal. Need for good dining. Thank heavens for the Ives/Timberlake. New brewery will help and that block area needs a work-over. We want tourists to STOP, SHOP, not just drive thru. Also is Chamber and City to working together on your plan? I remember when Dr. Tofte, as Chamber President, branded GR as the Star of the North. Nothing happened. No-one knew what branding was or meant! Good Luck and thank you. We love Grand Rapids and the spirit of the people living here.
34	When we moved here it was impossible to find a decent rental for our family of 5. We ended up buying but many families don't have that option when new to an area. Roads especially in Harris township are so narrow it is hard to walk or bike with the family safely
35	Please stop spending so much. People are getting tapped out from the taxes. Angry, too, I might add!
36	Focus on Safety (drug/sex trafficking) as well as bringing in bigger businesses PLEASE!
37	Grand Rapids needs to be a more robust, inclusive, and exciting place for residents and visitors. More diverse festivals, community sponsored outings, short term learning opportunities, etc. Having the same old things year after year gets old. How about establishing a permanent commission who's sole job would be to keep the community active? People don't just leave the area to find better jobs. They also leave because they're bored and need more diverse activities in their lives. There's also a crucial need for spaces to be made available for small businesses to rent on a one-time basis for meetings, workshops, etc. There are many home-based businesses who would benefit greatly from spaces such as this.
38	Need shopping, restaurants and water activities for families. Find myself going to Duluth Bemidji or Brainerd to shop and entertainment. Please bring in Kohl's!!!
39	Corruption in the judicial system. Corruption in law enforcement
40	I think Grand Rapids is a great place to live because we have the Blandin Foundation, which funds so many programs most small town can't afford. I believe without them, our town would look and feel very different and much poorer. We should do everything we can to maintain their existence. They support our town in so many ways (and I am not their employee: I just see the benefit of their grants).
41	Move sewage plant. Police on bikes. Free youth activities
42	The HWY 2 corridor has had a lot of improvements over the last couple years, but so much of it still looks shabby, and the traffic is still too fast as it goes through the downtown.
43	No
44	More restaurants. Indoor fun for kids-trampoline park. More shopping!!!!!!

45	good survey
46	How does the GR comprehensive plan tie into a greater GR or Itasca County plan. I feel like the survey could have been too narrow in its focus and maybe too stretch? As people become more mobile, hard to say they would still live here in 20 years. Or maybe they would if dot-dot-dot.
47	Drugs and alcohol are biggest problem. Abuse is everywhere. Anti- meth talk force is needed. Leave Marijuana alone.
48	This is a wonderful place to live! We are very happy with our decision to move here but it was not without major difficulties - For the first year we could not find child care, a house, or a rental unit when we decided to build a house. I worked remotely and was happy to have the flexibility to live here and keep my east coast salary, unfortunately lack of internet made that impossible also. These are all the basic needs our community needs to grow a middle class.
49	Where possible, focus on the aesthetic and commercial appeal of areas closest to downtown: including along hwy 2 (12th Ave NW to 7th NE) and Pokegama Ave. (6th St. N to the River). Right now, Kremer's parking lot is a huge wasted space. Avoid more sprawl. 3 traffic lanes instead of 5 on hwy 2 through town would increase crosstown travel time by a minute or two (or 3), but also slow down traffic and open up space for non-motorized travel and natural landscaping.
50	It was noted but the availability of affordable childcare is a huge limiting factor for many people I know.
51	A place for families / kids to have fun during winter. I love the indoor playground idea. We need rec activities far more than more child care! But a fun and cheap / free place for kids would be great! Theres nothing to do with them. We are in Duluth a ton to enjoy the amenities. Free festivals or carnivals would also be amazing. Better paying jobs and more of them. Better options for people who live out of town.
52	For the size of this city, I love how much services we have available. I am however worried about our economic stability with a lot of the higher paying jobs have become more and more limited. I love the concept of supporting small businesses/shops but the cost and what they can offer be very limited for many people in our community. I often shop online or travel to Duluth or brainerd for clothes and home needs. Having the bigger shopping chains can also help to draw in more people to our community and support other business as well. I would like to see more activities in the fall, spring, and especially in the winter months so that it encourage people in our community to connect and be more active. We have long winter months here and having community events that encourage people to get out and participate can give people something to look forward to. I love being here in the summer months because there is so much to do, but after a couple of mo ths into winter, I start to think about relocation. I know I am not alone in this area.
53	The town (city AND school district) greatly overtax and seem closed to public opinion; there are also problems with nepotism, unfriendliness, and uncompetitive businesses
54	Less nonprofit agencies they dont help anyone any way.

55	It is scary to see two new schools, a pending new jail, and the desire for an expanded arena with the threat of a couple of major employers at risk. You will end up taxing people out of the city.
56	I would like to see our drug rate go down I feel like it's the biggest problem Grand Rapids has and it's out of control
57	N/A
58	Affordable housing for all demographics, increase of small retail business and focus on zoning better. It is so hard to walk the city to go shopping as friends visit this great town.
59	The permit system for residents needs to be addressed. You need a permit to do anything but even when you get the permit and pay for it when you complete the project and let the city know they never come check on it. It seems to be just a money grab for the city but they are not fulfilling their end of the deal.
60	Tear down the old Rainbow Inn and get a business on that side of town. Like Target, Kohl's or something. GR has all businesses on south side. Provide East side with restaurants and places to shop.
61	Less stigma. Less closed minded people
62	Maintain the walking/bike trails better. Some have bad cracks etc. They could be cleaned off more often!
63	Enforce a complete and full state audit on overspending in city and county government.
64	N/a
65	I do think our shopping options are not very good, and I would love to have a JCPenneys, Kohl's or Marshall's in our town. I also need to say that my family owns a small business in town, and a corporate chain of the same type of business was allowed to open up one block away, and it has hurt our business. There does not seem to be much support for our business, yet at times we hear our city saying they welcome new businesses and that we should support our local small businesses. I guess I'm not sure where our city stands on this type of situation.
66	I appreciate having the opportunity to do this survey. Sometimes it's hard to know where to go to get your voice heard. We love this community and want to help make it thrive!
67	Facility for sports other than hockey, turf fields, community gym. Better taxi service. Shopping district where it is door to door shops w/o majority being office space and blocks apart. More venues to host large groups- weddings, banquets, craft fairs, continuing Ed programs, large group of ppl events.

68	Reduce focus on services industry here and work to reduce the immigration of non productive citizens to the area that come for the programs and generous benefits. More hand ups and not hand outs, the community is heading in a bad direction in part due to the increase in non productive citizens to the area that are attracted by the generosity of the community and the increase in cheap housing.
69	Lowered/controlled taxation
70	Keeping blandin alive.
71	The key to healthy cities is jobs, jobs! Find a way to encourage private businesses to move here. This doesn't mean TIFT districts, but lower restrictions on building and running a business
72	STOP WITH THE LOW INCOME HOUSING!
73	Grand Rapids must promote new jobs
74	Please consider bringing a family clothing store in to town that is affordable. The limited options we have force me to shop online or go to Duluth to shop. I would rather spend my money locally
75	Very happy to see Curling as an option in the survey.
76	Address the high cost of city government. High property tax, Low return on my tax dollar investment
77	I would like to see veterans park made into a seasonal campground with rv pads and electric but no permanant sites. This would encourage tourism and clean up the park and encourage families to move to the area.
78	Lower taxes, stop wasteful spending, get jobs other than fast food in town.
79	Start spending money as this is out of control. Your industrial tax base is declining and you spend like you have a bucket of money. You have raised taxes significantly
80	Please quit taxing us more and more or we'll be forced to sell and move.
81	Are there any plans for a humane society for the animals?
82	Stop trying to invest into low income and moving people into our community to make it "more diverse". That is starting to cost our community in many ways, such as new schools, additional police force, additional social service etc., which is overwhelming the tax paying community. If your going to try to attract people from outside the area, you have to do that by using our natural resources for

	snowmobiling, boating, 4-wheeling, mining, creating manufacturing, logging etc. if you focus on good paying jobs instead of low income, those people will help develop Grand Rapids in a positive way vs one that will cost our community.
83	Over taxation and wasteful spending of our city , we are number 3 in the state for the cost of running a city government, by the state auditor site
84	Downtown. Convince Blandin to sell their falling apart block of buildings
85	Get the drug addicts out of town, clean up canal street and that area. That whole part of town is known as the ghetto. The bridge being put in right by the library was the dumbest move this town could make...now when the cops go and do a bust, they will all just flee across the bridge!
86	Anything more for kids and families. More programming for preschool and youth activities.
87	Do zero based budgeting and less bonding
88	The taxes are crazy- that's how we ended up not buying a home in Grand Raids. My parents' taxes are crazy. We drive to GR for church & Music lessons, shopping & to visit family & medical. You need to focus on jobs for those of us in the area. We need to be sustainable for us. Not attracting other here until you have jobs for us. I'm a 5th generation Itasca County Resident and have no desire to live anywhere else. We need manufacturing jobs and jobs for MEN so they can support their families. We Do not need anymore restaurants. Lower taxes because businesses and homeowners are being squashed by them. Your known for City officials who like to spend at the expense of everyone else. Learn to budget like the rest of us. And why is gas more expensive in GR than abywyelse.
89	Passing policy related to nicotine access and use would show a value related to early substance use (T21). I still support the remodel plans for the arena including addition of childcare, the Boys and Girls Club, and turf on the fields but I would add in turf on the football field.
90	Sidewalk on river road
91	The one main thing I hear most people leaving Grand Rapids to shop for is clothing. More clothing stores would be a good plan. Also during the winter especially it would be nice to have more family friendly things to do.
92	I am Concerned by the questions in this survey that the city of losing sight of core government services. If the city is open to industry moving into GR (that pays well) then housing will improve and businesses will flourish. Keeping taxes low and government assistance in check will improve the overall health of the county

93	GR needs change ! We need to grow jobs to keep this town alive and the time to do this was yesterday. Ask yourself why is Harris Twp and Cohasset growing ? Please let's do a survey that ask hard questions that could really help our city move forward with positive economic growth.
94	River walk. Utilize what we have and that the beautiful river. Build businesses on the river that will attract tourism and locals to come see the river
95	coordination of traffic lights so traffic does not get backed up .
96	A nice restaurant like Boomtown in the old Sawmill site.
97	quality child care
98	More community gatherings
99	Need more family/youth activities like the museum and water parks.
100	consolidation of services between city and county
101	More direct link between the city and organizations like the Downtown Business Association.
102	Provide incentives to residents and businesses to plant trees. Protect water quality using rain gardens, settling ponds, natural landscaping, and preserving undeveloped areas. Bring back commercial flight options. Decrease urban sprawl.
103	Starting my new business, I had to look elsewhere besides Grand Rapids. It was simply not feasible nor where there any new incentives to start a new business within the area.
104	Traffic congestion & poor traffic flow
105	Overspending and accountability
106	Instead of spending tax payers money on beautification in the city, lower there already too high of taxes
107	work with service station owners to keep gas prices in agreement with other area cities.

108	Downtown grand Rapids retail not mom and pop shops small businesses. Housing. We need what Duluth and Minneapolis have. We aren't going to end up like hibbing mn and be a joke spending money on stupid things and we don't need another bank burger joint or church or hotel.
109	Better options for hosting conferences that are not so expensive. i.e. Timberlake is cost prohibitive for some of the smaller organizations.
110	Area should pursue cross-laminated timber production
111	Continued efforts to attract new businesses.
112	Development of parks or something down by Walmart in those undeveloped areas.
113	Get rid of the Herald Review! Replace them with an unbiased newspaper.
114	Please be mindful of wanting, wanting, wanting (new this, new that) - it all has to be paid for somehow and rising taxes is very threatening
115	The property taxes in GR have become prohibitive for young families who may want to purchase a home in town and are a financial burden on people on a fixed income (e.g., senior citizens)
116	Itasca taxpayer alliance, bully's that have money and think they can and Republican hate need to stop.
117	We need to attract more businesses and it doesn't matter if they're locally owned or not. We need to grow our city the way The Brainerd Lakes area is growing. "You are either growing or dying."
118	I think we need to stop becoming a welfare city. Not because we don't want to help people but because it's not the right kind of help. It will eventually deteriorate the city and economy. No more big cheesy income based apartment buildings. Give people incentive to start businesses, get good jobs etc.
119	I live in a building with no recycle bins ?? Other cities it's mandatory. I'd like to see this and a ban on plastic bags in the entire city. Make Grand Rapids a city that cares about environmental issues.
120	Please stop building trails and pedestrian bridges. If speed limits were enforced people would feel safer walking on existing side walks.
121	I like a clean and tidy house. The same applies to a city. Clean and well painted street markings are important to me and maybe some more solar speed limit radar signage. I'm not sure on that cost but to me that makes a city more inviting and traffic freindy.

122	We need better quality and better paying jobs to attract younger people and allow families to stay in the area vs needing to move to be able to survive without assistance
123	I am concerned about traffic flow on the Golf Course Rd (Co Rd 23) and Co Rd 76 once the new elementary school opens.
124	Supporting more restaurant diversity will attract more working professionals to the area.
125	Would love to see more clothing businesses come in. The mall needs major revocations!
126	Continue bringing business to downtown near Old Central School. Walking from restaurant to shopping to MacRostie's (for example) is not possible. It would be great to have this option. City is divided between S (Target, WalMart) end shopping and N end (Old Central School). Could we revitalize the N end of town? Better parking needed near Old Central school.
127	Thanks for your work. Love our town. Not open to refugees in large numbers,
128	The major industries (power & paper) are no longer employing as many. What is GR going to do to attract major industry with such good paying jobs?
129	Reduce taxes.
130	More incentives to bring businesses to the area, ie more higher paying jobs. Also, look into why people travel to Duluth, Bemidji, and Brainerd and try to make improvements to this area so people can get what they need here instead of traveling to those other communities.
131	Dont wreck it. only do things that serve the people. LET THEM TELL YOU WHAT THAT IS - THANK YOU for starting with this survey!!!!!!!!!!!!
132	Like to see older structures be removed to maybe increase chance of new businesses will come to town. New fire hall for the town.
133	Ability to work with business rather than being a barrier
134	Keeping taxes at 2 percent or less increase per year as that is the raise most people get (cost of living).
135	The smell from the waste water treatment plant is horrible. We cannot open our windows, coming out of restaurants it smells awful, visitors complain heavily about the town smell.

136	<p>Bring in retail stores, better shopping. A Kohls, Dunhams, Old Navy IHOP, etc. I'm happy to drive to Duluth for everything because I get better quality at a good price.</p> <p>Clean the parks, Veterans Park is disgusting and its my favorite because of the nature. The dog park took away its open beauty, the garbages are overflowing and its a mess.</p> <p>Build a nice ice skating rink downtown in the big parking lot that used to be used for the farmers market. It could make a nice shopping experience in winter with music and a snack shack. Hot cocoa, etc. And change the shopping. The mall is full of crafts, offices, and antiques. Bring in mall type stores and make it a destination again. Same for Central School.</p>
137	<p>It's not easy operating a business. More attention and incentives should be explored to keep existing businesses here along with some gratitude. All of the talk is about how we need new businesses or better paying jobs which I agree with, but lets make sure our existing base is strong so we can continually build. Example: look at the Magnetation mess and all of the longstanding businesses that got burned. Look at how much money was thrown at this "savior" project and look at the results. What if we "invested" that same time, money, and energy into our existing businesses?</p>
138	<p>Too many welfare -supported people in our city/county. These People don't want to work but yet we keep pouring money/efforts into assisting them. (Our community working population is aging faster than being replaced by the next level of workers.) enforce Community Service requirements etc, inorder to be eligible for any (tax-paid) government social service programs!!!</p>
139	<p>More of a highlight on tourism on our community! We have so much to offer!</p>
140	<p>building inspectors are hard to work with. No latitude in remodeling. Too much by the book. Too expensive to update older buildings.</p>
141	<p>You need to think what you're going to replace Blandin with when they close!! They should have been treated better over the years and we all will hurt when they close. It's when not if they close. You need to find some biz that wants to expand into here that uses timber.</p>
142	<p>I'm hoping Blandin survives-a lot of my classmates class of 2005 are leaving there to go to the mines, but that's not exactly dependable either. A few of them are talking of moving out of the area all together and these are educated individuals with families:(</p>
143	<p>Nursing home road/Hwy 2 W</p>
144	<p>I live near the High School and have 2 children who attend GRHS. They both would like to walk/bike to school, but since there are no sidewalks, it makes the route they take too and from very dangerous. They have to walk on Conifer Dr on the S-curve heading up to the Reif. It would be nice if there was a trail/walk path that would run between the woods and the football field almost directly off 8th Ave. There are a lot of families with kids back there. The reason we bought out house but travel on Conifer is dangerous the mixture of buses and young drivers.</p>

145	lower taxes. Government should understand their role, provide basic services only. too many city parks are a drain on the budget. Between City/County/ISD 318 taxes and fees, I am considering relocation to Cass county, just over the line.
146	Highway 2 makes walking around downtown before 7pm a nightmare. When I moved to this town I could not believe the traffic going right through downtown. Most people don't stop when the light is red, and I've almost been hit crossing the street there many times. If you want to revitalize downtown, you need to focus on that road. When community events happen, and they try to have them go on on both sides of Highway 2, all the people stay on one side of the road and don't venture back and forth. This is because they don't want to risk their lives. This road has made downtown unwalkable in general. Just try and get a stroller from Brewed to Central School. It's nearly impossible if you try to cross where Highway 2 and 169 meet. This is why downtown businesses fail. Those two highways going right through downtown is the dumbest city planning I have ever seen.
147	Focus on the basics of government: public safety, roads, and keeping taxes affordable.
148	Major concern: Young workers and families are not able to return to Grand Rapids (or stay in GR) as there are no quality paying jobs available.
149	Most problems will take care of themselves if the business environment was stronger.
150	I believe we need better paying jobs that come through large business/manufacturing. There are skilled workers who have lost jobs at Blandin with no where to go.
151	Local government must focus to reduce taxes, even if it means reducing services. City + County + School = unaffordable. This whole survey was asking about what to add....the citizens cannot afford to keep adding and adding.
152	no great survey
153	I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this process. I think positive community development can take many forms, and increasing size or population is not necessarily among them. I think improving quality of life for those who live here is more important than "growth," as getting bigger is not always better. However, a stronger community will likely create its own growth, and when that happens, our community should be prepared to be open and welcoming to new residents.
154	I don't think Grand Rapids representatives realize how much business they are losing because there are no places to shop in Grand Rapids. We need a business similar to Kohls. Also need other clothing stores. There are so many people that I hear talking about how tired they are of hearing "Shop Local" If Grand Rapids had what people were looking for, they would shop local and shop traveling to Bemidji and/or Duluth for their needs.
155	Lower taxes

156	I've always thought there should be more commitment to develop the area along the Mississippi such as trails and retail businesses and restaurants or a boardwalk type of construction.
157	Continue moving the community forward in an fiscally responsible manner.
158	Women's retail shopping. Have to go out of town, Duluth, Bemidji. Brainerd
159	Expansion of medical campus
160	I would like to see better clothes shopping choices. We have to currently shop in other towns to get what we need for a reasonable price.
161	Example: I am in the process of setting up a Aquaponics growing center. Raising live Organic Tilapia fish along with year around fresh organic vegetables. 100% sustainable, using 95% less water than soil farming. The fish waste feed the plants, the plants grow in water taking up fish nutrients, then the clean water goes back to fish. Fish get harvested every 240 days, vegetables are harvested year around. Yep fresh tomatoes in January. I am starting out small scale. Think about this. Innovative ventures such as this. 1 acre of enclosed Aquaponics can provide food, protein and vegetables for several hundred people versus 100 acres of crop land. Energy cost keep going up, transportation of basic foods from national companies keeps rising. Make Grand Rapids MN a Mecca of community sustainability. We already have ICC with it's greenhouses, and research, dig in and look at ways to make GR a national model of community.
162	We need something like a Kohl's in GR
163	Speeding and distracted driving is out of control in Grand Rapids and more traffic enforcement could save lives, time, and money
164	Jobs paying more, can't afford a place to live.
165	Those downtown stop lights need to be synced better. A good portion of my commute is trying to get through those lights. We need more Ma and Pa type businesses. The last thing we need is another fast food joint. The Sawmill was my family's favorite place to spend quality time together. The kids loved the pool and we loved the pool side rooms. We need stuff for the kids to do, especially during the long winter months and for children that are too young for school sports.
166	The plan to create two new elementary schools leaves behind the old elementary buildings. Rather than tear them down they should be revitalized and rejuvenated.
167	The mindset of the city council and Itasca commisioners HAS to change. Grand Rapids is a great place to live BUT we need jobs and businesses for the younger people. Lower taxes to attract business, freshen up the city and welcome new business.

168	Fix the potholes,
169	Outdoor turf fields are needed. Improvements to IRA Civic Center must be completed.
170	I would like to see the community become more family oriented, not just for young families. Focus on the growing population of teens through 40. There is so little to do for this age group that doesn't surround alcohol consumption.
171	Please try to bring in more industries and retail.
172	Some form of media that lists every activity, event, entertainment in one place.
173	The permit process for home improvements can be a little excessive compared to neighboring communities
174	I would like to see that area in front of the Old Blandin building site turned into a Rose Garden! The tourism that alone would bring into town would be Great! AND it would take the eyesore that it is and benefit the community! I also think that a walking/bike trail ALONG the river where people can walk and watch for birds and see gardens and sculptures would be an awesome fit! You really should check out what Hutchinson, MN has been doing!! They are about the same size as Grand Rapids and miles ahead of you as far as nature tourism is concerned!!
175	None at this time.
176	If Grand Rapids is suppose to be a nice small town, we should look at other towns our size. I feel whoever makes the decisions tries to make us like the cities. We aren't Minneapolis/St. Paul.
177	help with low cost housing repairs---older homes need repairs but most can no afford them
178	Fix the potholes- focus on improving the roads!
179	A more visible police presence to address speed limits violations, drug use and DUI's
180	Change the street parking ordinance as many individuals don't have access to or cannot afford off street parking.
181	The City continues to make infrastructure improvements, which helps make the City more livable. That's a good thing.

182	It was somewhat covered, but I wanted to note as a 20 something with a college degree there is not a lot of work in Grand Rapids that is a livable wage when you consider the students loans we have because we went to college to obtain better paying jobs. It makes it difficult to want to live and work in the Grand Rapids area knowing there are many other job opportunities in different towns and cities.
183	Blanding buildings on NW 1st Ave are a blight on the community. These should be addressed.
184	would love to see a couple more restaurants, such as texas road house or Red lobster
185	It would be great if the focus is on making Grand Rapids a destination not a town that people pass through on the way to Duluth or Bemidji or St. Cloud!
186	It was touched on, but blight. Entering the city from the east and having to look at the rainbow inn should make us all embarrassed.
187	The city should not be involved in promoting or developing new for-profit businesses if we already have an existing small business type (new brewery - we already have Crackow). We don't need more fast food businesses. Public should be involved in the conversation of the type of businesses we are seeking.
188	My dream project: make 1st Ave NW between Hwy #2 and 5th street a permanent (or at least summertime permanent) pedestrian mall that serves as a town square connected to Central School's green space. Maybe even hold the Farmers market there and have weekly festivals at the market to attract people downtown - build on the success of the first Friday artwalks
189	encourage more small businesses not big boxes that close too soon, startup manufacturing too
190	No, thank you for asking
191	Ideally the City government/staff would be more welcoming/accommodating/ open to business development. They should encourage new business vs. creating obstacles to prevent development.
192	Reiterating-- focus on downtown and local business development and reject 'growth' that leads to costly and unsightly urban sprawl. i.e. www.strongtowns.org
193	Non religious preschools
194	Focus on job development other than cheap service jobs. Very difficult to find a good paying job in the area.

195	Extend water & sewer to former Ainsworth site to make it easier to develop and attract employers
196	TAX RATES IN GRAND RAPIDS ARE GETTING OUT OF LINE - WE NEED TO BRING IN A FEW LARGE SCALE EMPLOYERS TO TAKE SOME OF THE TAX BURDON IN THE FUTURE AND REALLY TAKE A LOOK AT HOW MUCH LONGER RESIDENTS CAN AFFORD TO LIVE IN GRAND RAPIDS. TAXES ARE FORCING PEOPLE OOUT OF THE AREA.
197	Our property tax situation is getting out of control especially in the city of Grand Rapids. We need to stop bringing in low income/subsidized housing that brings in more people that drain the social services. More market rate housing is needed.
198	N/A
199	Efforts to reduce littering and increase clean up. Also, garbages every so often along trails for people to pick up after their dogs.
200	Traffic through downtown especially northbound. Perhaps making downtown streets one way and moving the parking spaces on pokegama by city hall/the ground floor.
201	The city knows how bad it smells in the south part of town it needs to be fixed for business to move in,
202	<p>Policing needs to crack down on dog owners so we are not wasting service time addressing the same owners time and again. Reinstitute leash law not "in control of owner" statements.</p> <p>We need to rebuild facilities like Blandin Beach for the people who do not have great access AND give the beach attendants the chance to keep it clean and pet free. As much money needs to go into staff to keep the beach a great place as we spend zamboning local hockey rinks and paying rink attendants who let kids trash the rink buildings. We need public cameras for safety.</p>
203	Fix the IRA Civic Center
204	Continue to address blighted structures
205	A lighted sidewalk from high school and down conifer drive. Currently it is not safe for students/pedestrians to walk to school, or home from school or to activities.
206	Better availability of news online. If its in the Herald than often it is blocked online unless you pay. General happenings and news around town is not available to those who don't have a subscription. Put more news and announcements in the city website where everyone can access it.



Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan Economic Indicators & Update



Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee February 27, 2019



Comp Plan Process – Economic Development Section

Data
Analysis

Other economic
reports

Interviews

EDA &
Steering
Committee
Discussion

Goals, policies &
implementation
strategies





**Economic Vitality Process© 2004
Economic Development Services, Inc.**

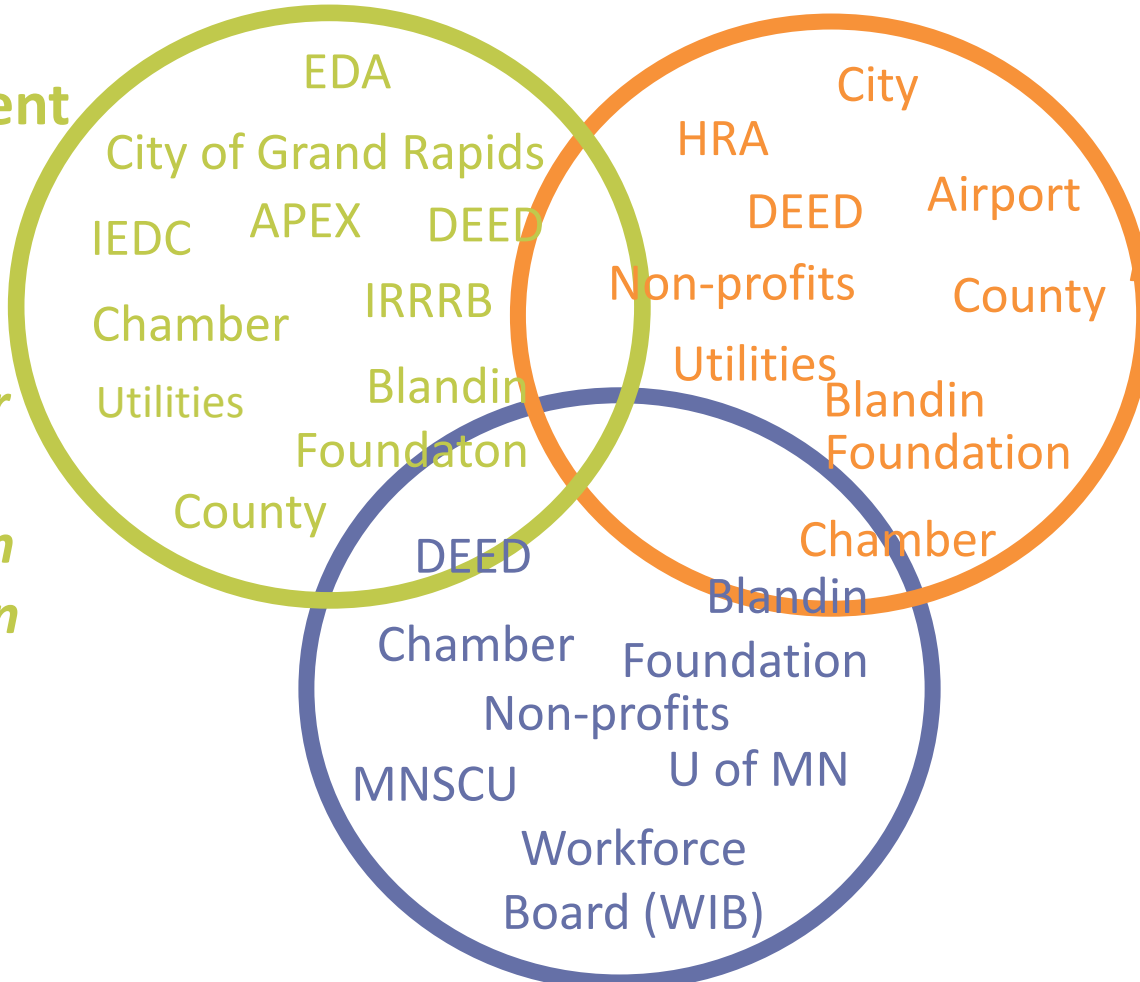
Dynamic process

**Requires
consistent,
long-term
collaborative
stewardship**

Economic Competitiveness Partners – *(partial listing)*

Economic Development

Focus on businesses that export a product or service and build wealth in the region



Community Development

Focus on infrastructure & amenities that support & attract companies & workers.

Workforce Development

Focus on training & retraining workers with skills appropriate for regional economy.



Key Industries



Traded Clusters

The Engines of Regional Economies

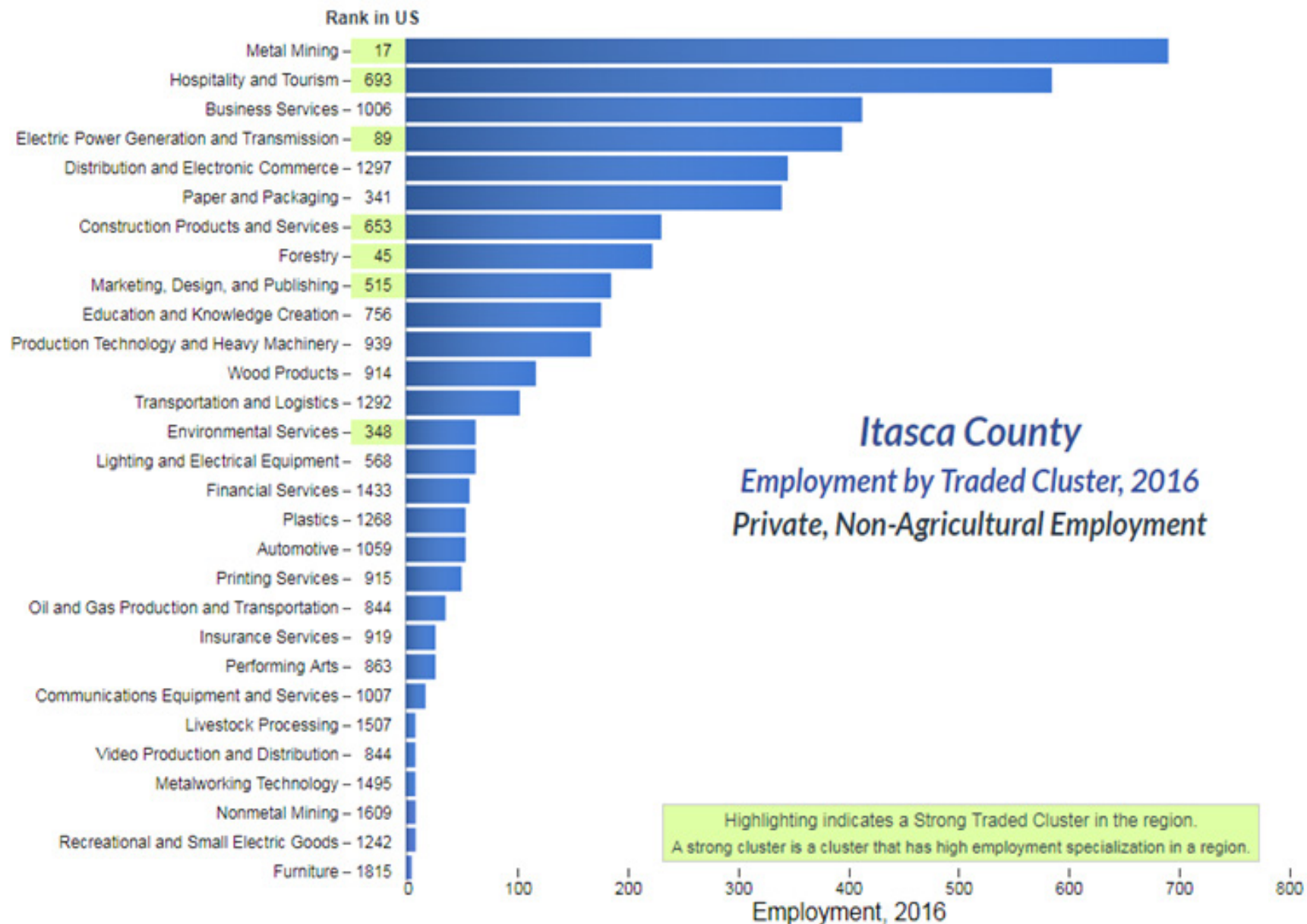
- Serve markets in other regions or nations
- Concentrated in regions that afford specific competitive advantages
- Examples: medical device, iron mining, ag processing, Hollywood

Local Clusters

The Foundation of Local Economies

- Sell products and services primarily for the local market
- Located in every region
- Examples: drug stores, elementary schools, dentists

Industry Cluster Analysis – Traded Clusters



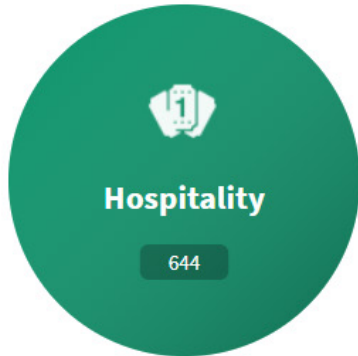
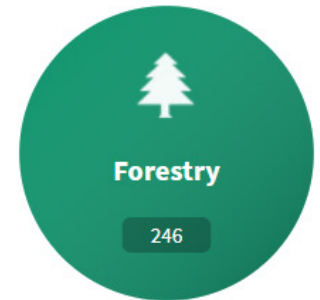
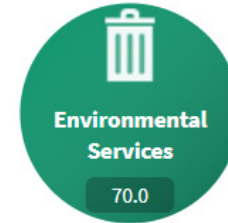
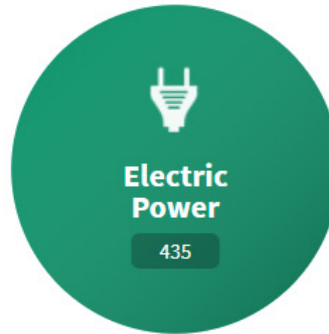
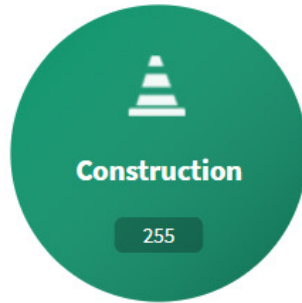
Industry Cluster Analysis – Local Clusters



Itasca County Traded Industry Clusters

Cluster Portfolio, 2016

7
Traded
Clusters



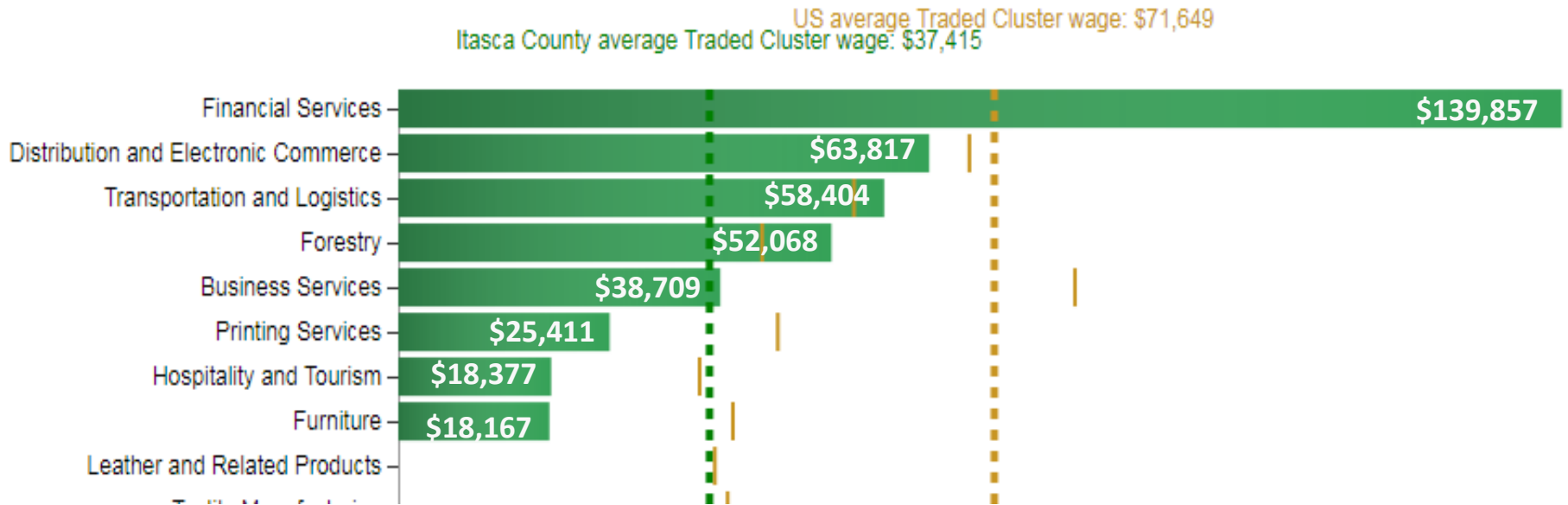
1999 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2016

Itasca County

Wages by Traded Cluster, 2016

Average Private Wage

■ indicates US average wage for cluster



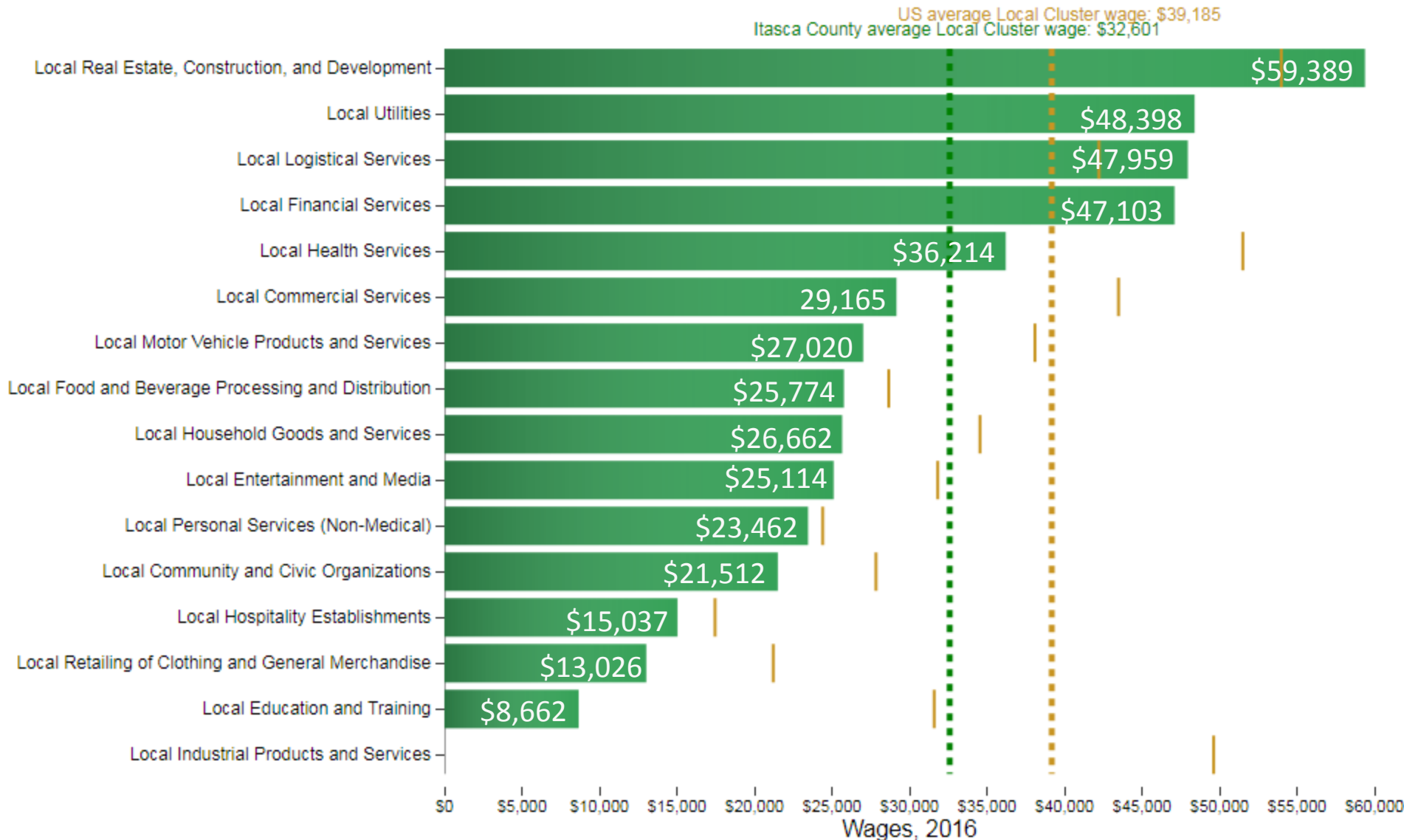
There are data non-disclosure limitations for Metal Mining & Paper industries due to the small number of firms. Data available for NE MN mining wages - \$78,088

Itasca County

Wages by Local Cluster, 2016

Average Private Wage

indicates US average wage for cluster

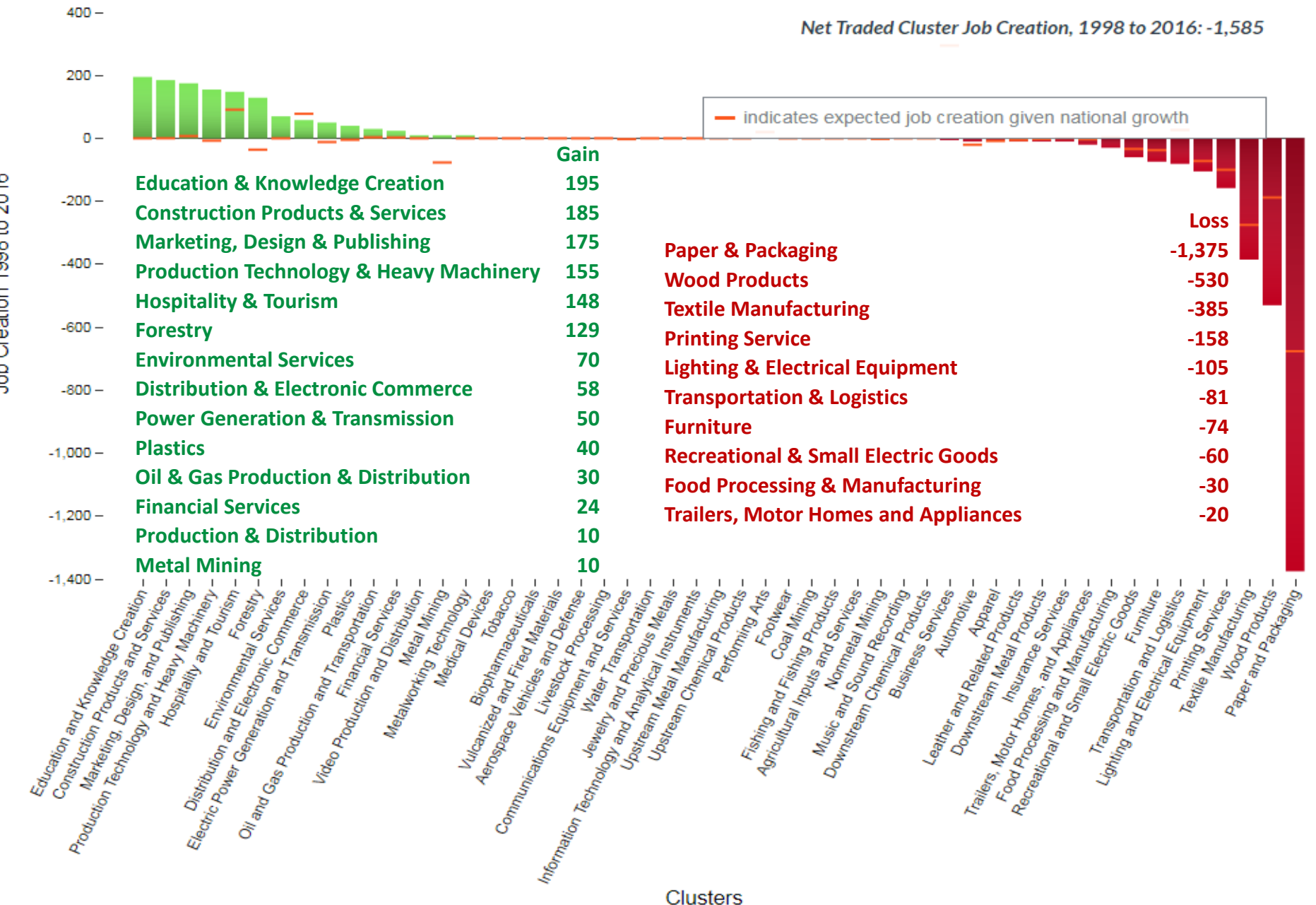


Itasca County

Job Creation by Traded Cluster, 1998-2016

Private Employment, Absolute Job Gains

Net Traded Cluster Job Creation, 1998 to 2016: -1,585



Itasca County

Job Creation by Local Cluster, 1998-2016
Private Employment, Absolute Job Gains

Job Creation 1998 to 2016

Net Local Cluster Job Creation, 1998 to 2016: +1,199

— indicates expected job creation given national growth



Local Health Services	1,404
Local Real Estate, Construction & Development	345
Local Retailing of Clothing & General Merchandise	219
Local Logistical Services	78
Local Community & Civic Organizations	72
Local Hospitality Establishments	61
Local Financial Services	47
Local Education & Training	20
Local Commercial Services	-389
Local Food & Bev Processing & Distribution	-299
Local Household Goods & Services	-176
Local Entertainment & Media	-83
Local Motor Vehicle Products & Services	-48
Local Personal Services (non-medical)	-40
Local Industrial Products & Services	-14

Table 37. Industry Employment Statistics, 2017

Itasca Co.	2017 Annual Data				2012-2017		2016-2017	
	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll (\$1,000s)	Avg. Annual Wage	Change in Jobs	Percent Change	Change in Jobs	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	1,197	15,829	\$638,370	\$40,329	-125	-0.8%	80	0.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	29	175	\$5,617	\$32,034	-15	-7.7%	-25	-12.3%
Mining	6	397	\$25,929	\$65,366	#N/A	#N/A	173	77.1%
Construction	143	764	\$45,844	\$60,005	-271	-26.2%	-19	-2.4%
Manufacturing	41	925	\$54,348	\$58,754	-88	-8.7%	-23	-2.4%
Utilities	12	406	\$38,885	\$95,775	-25	-5.8%	-15	-3.6%
Wholesale Trade	33	290	\$15,949	\$54,998	-5	-1.7%	-40	-12.1%
Retail Trade	186	2,263	\$63,202	\$27,929	23	1.0%	26	1.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	43	379	\$17,754	\$46,843	10	2.7%	0	0.0%
Information	20	146	\$5,432	\$37,208	-10	-6.4%	3	2.1%
Finance & Insurance	56	371	\$19,036	\$51,309	-38	-9.3%	-14	-3.6%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	28	81	\$2,070	\$25,555	14	20.9%	9	12.5%
Professional & Technical Services	70	219	\$8,180	\$37,351	-52	-19.2%	-1	-0.5%
Management of Companies	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	41	600	\$17,137	\$28,562	-95	-13.7%	-60	-9.1%
Educational Services	47	1,422	\$57,175	\$40,208	127	9.8%	-11	-0.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	143	3,707	\$140,504	\$37,902	541	17.1%	161	4.5%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	27	297	\$6,767	\$22,784	3	1.0%	-14	-4.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	102	1,431	\$21,804	\$15,237	63	4.6%	-4	-0.3%
Other Services	107	615	\$17,509	\$28,469	-5	-0.8%	-63	-9.3%
Public Administration	61	1,326	\$63,031	\$47,534	-90	-6.4%	-1	-0.1%

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program

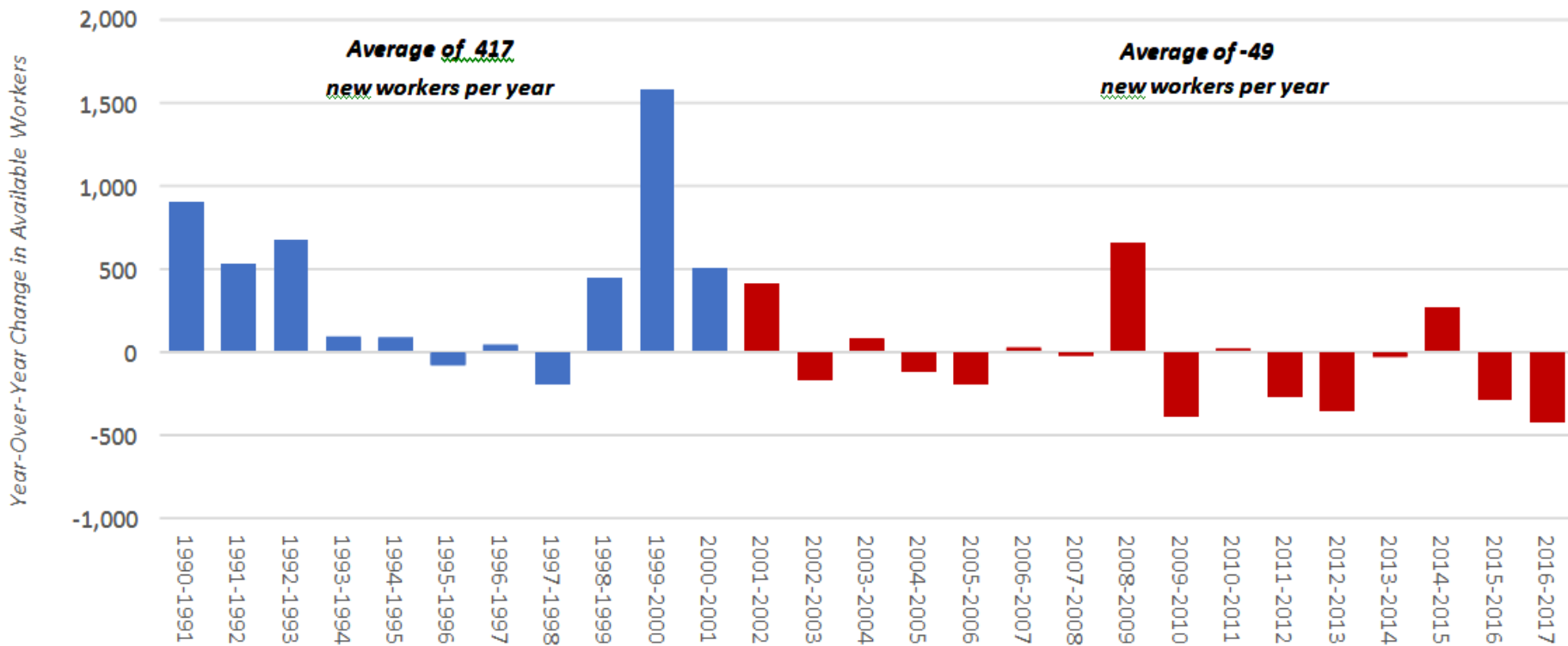


Workforce



Average Change in Labor Force, 1990 – 2017 – Itasca County

Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2017, Itasca Co.

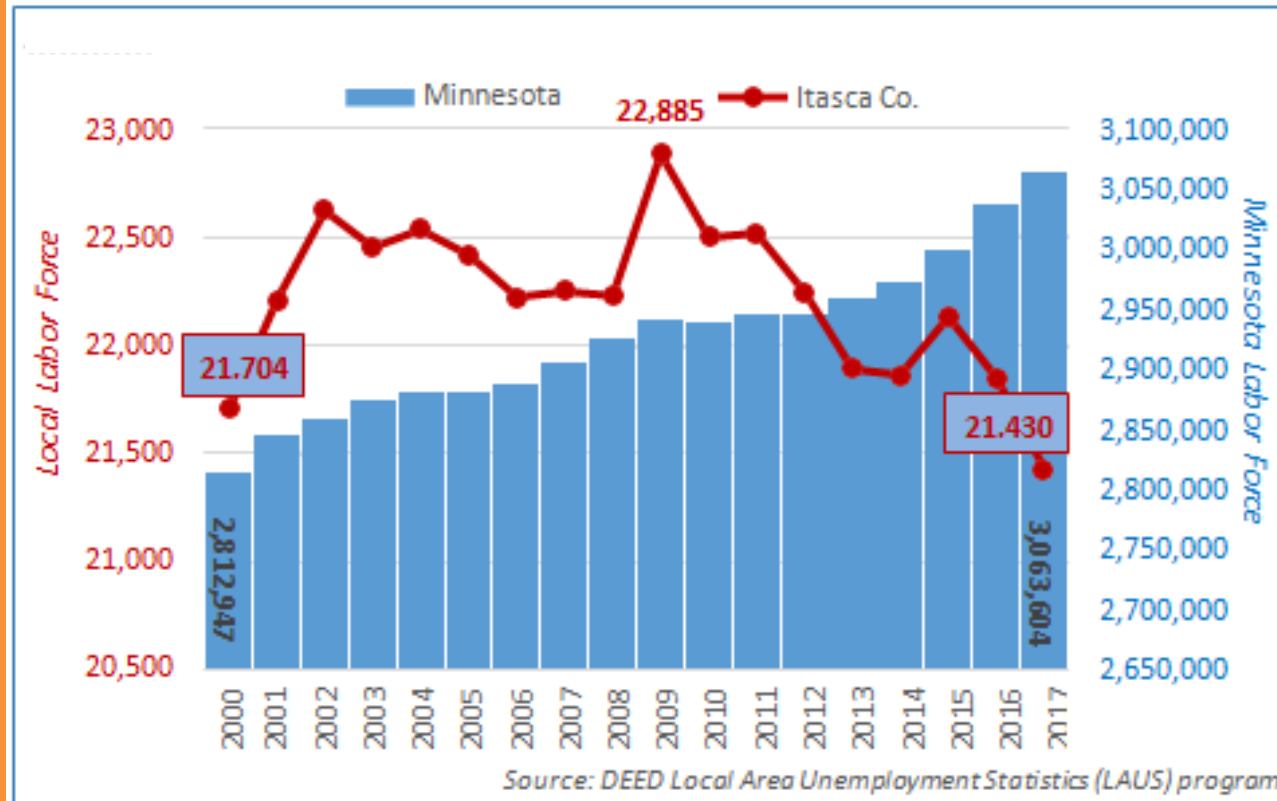


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Itasca County – Shrinking Labor Force

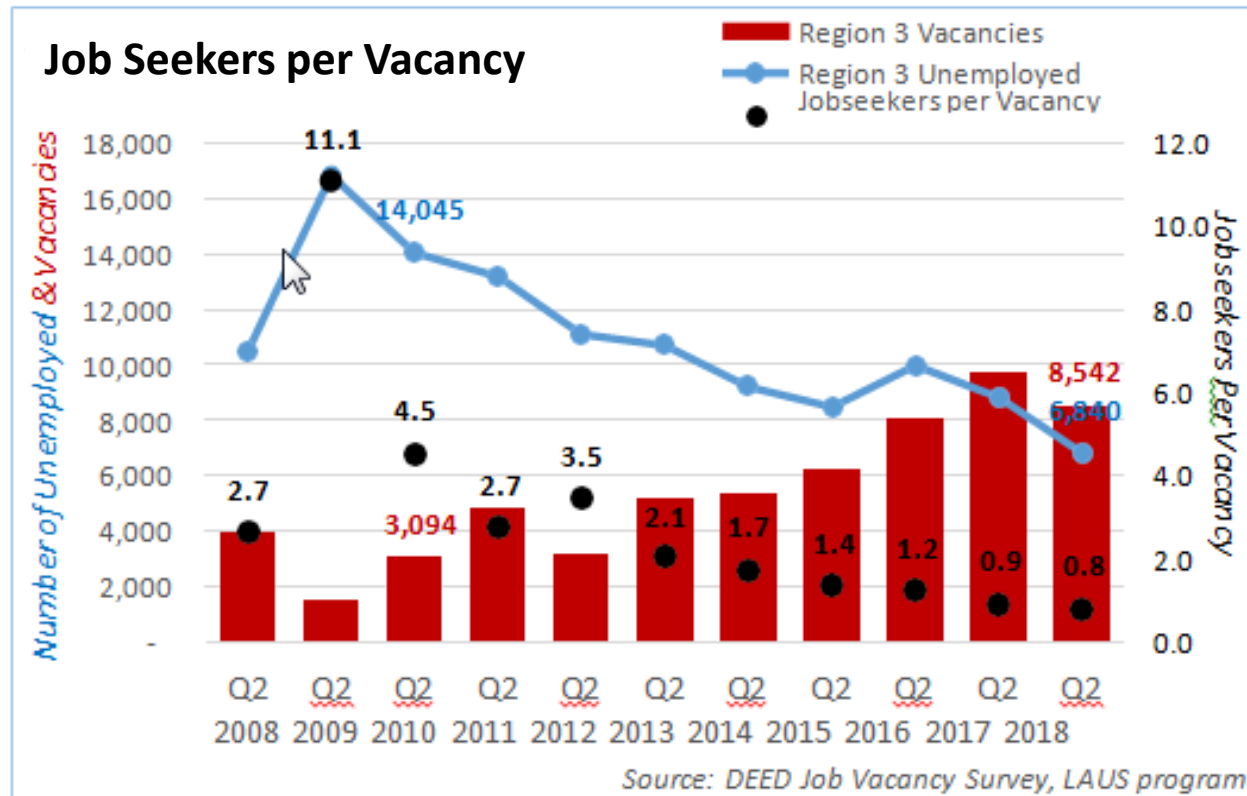
2002-2017

Itasca County
-5.3% loss (-1,193)
Minnesota
+7.1% gain



Tightening Labor Market Throughout the Region

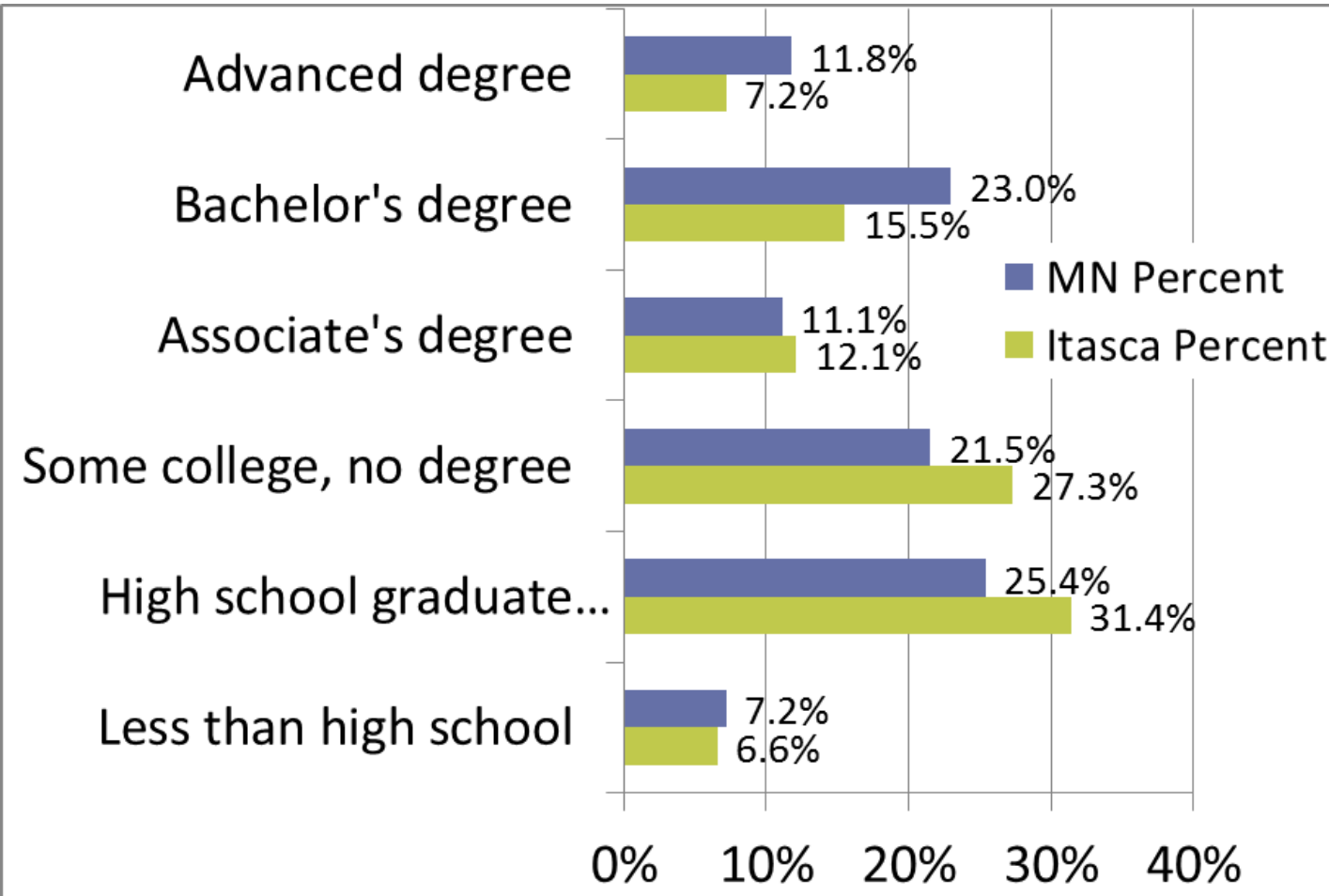
The number of job seekers per job has declined from a peak of 11/job in 2009 to .8/job in 2018 in NE Minnesota



Talent attraction to the region is critical to fill job vacancies

Itasca County – Educational Attainment

**Itasca County
Smaller
percentage of
Bachelor's and
Advance degrees
compared to the
State of MN**

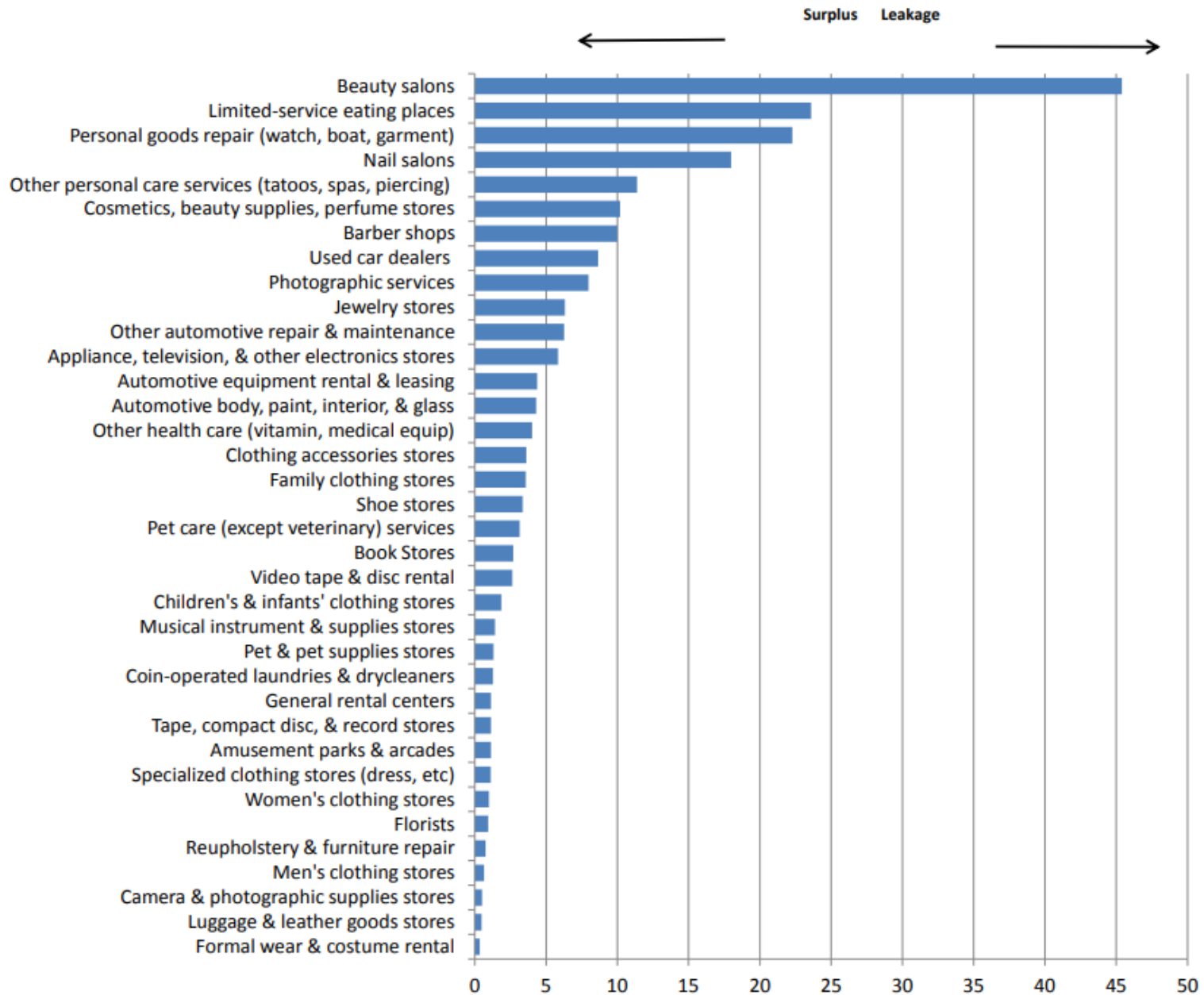


Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates

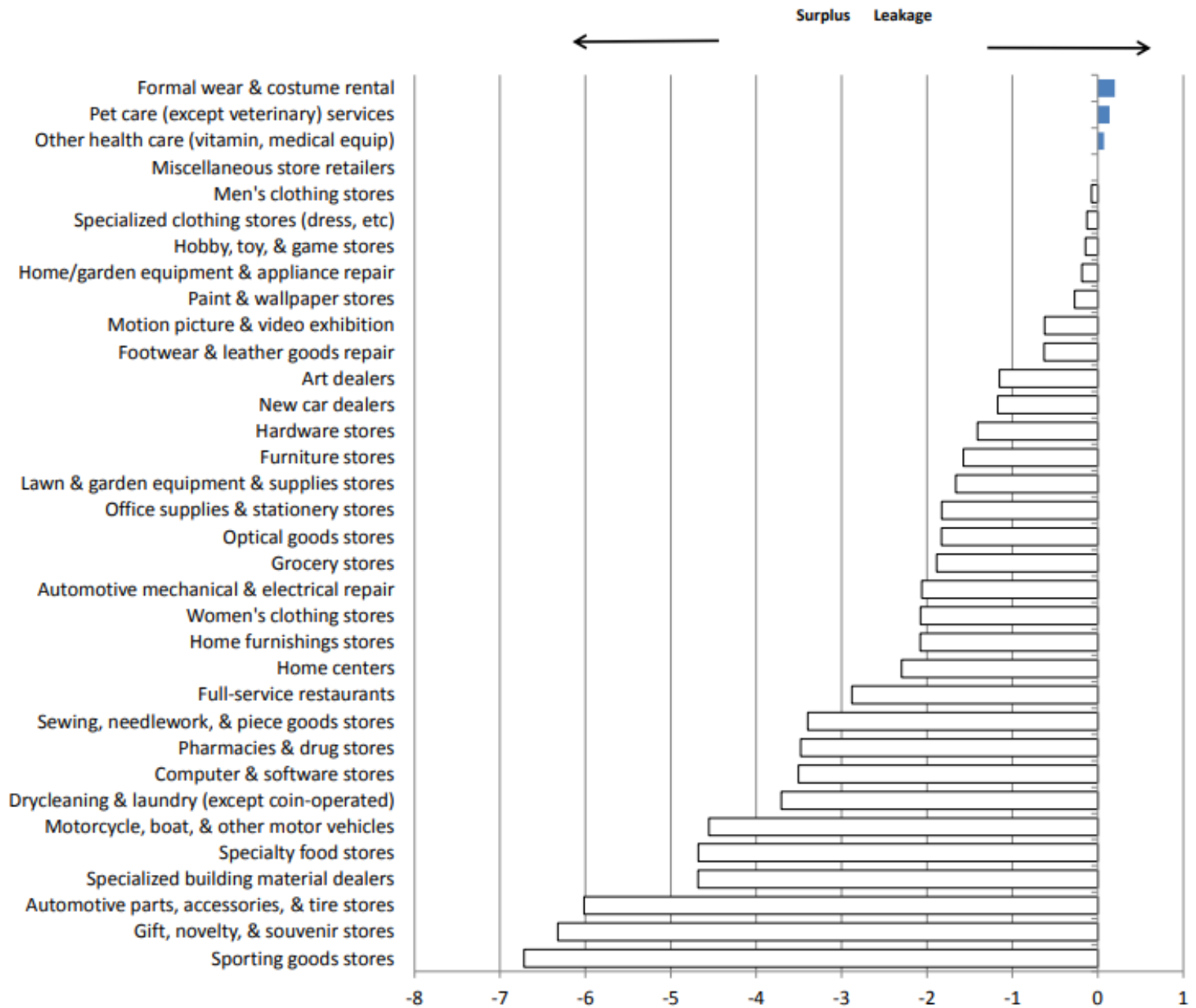
Retail Trade



Retail Gap Estimates by Store Format



Retail Gap Estimates by Store Format





Industrial Land



Current Inventory of GREDA Owned, Undeveloped, Industrial Property w/Utilities

<u>Plat</u>	<u>Plat Year</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u># of Sites</u>
Industrial Park East	1999	14.5	8
Airport S. Industrial Park - Phase 1	2007	9.8	5
Airport S. Industrial Park - Phase 2	2009	8.1	6
<hr/>		32.4	19

Average Site Area (Acres) = 1.7

Estimated Capacity (based on 1 business per 4.1 acres) = 7

**Projected Build-Out
of Serviced Industrial
Land Based on
Historic Absorption
Rates**

2028 - 2032

Current Inventory of GREDA or IEDC Owned, Undeveloped, Industrial Property no Utilities

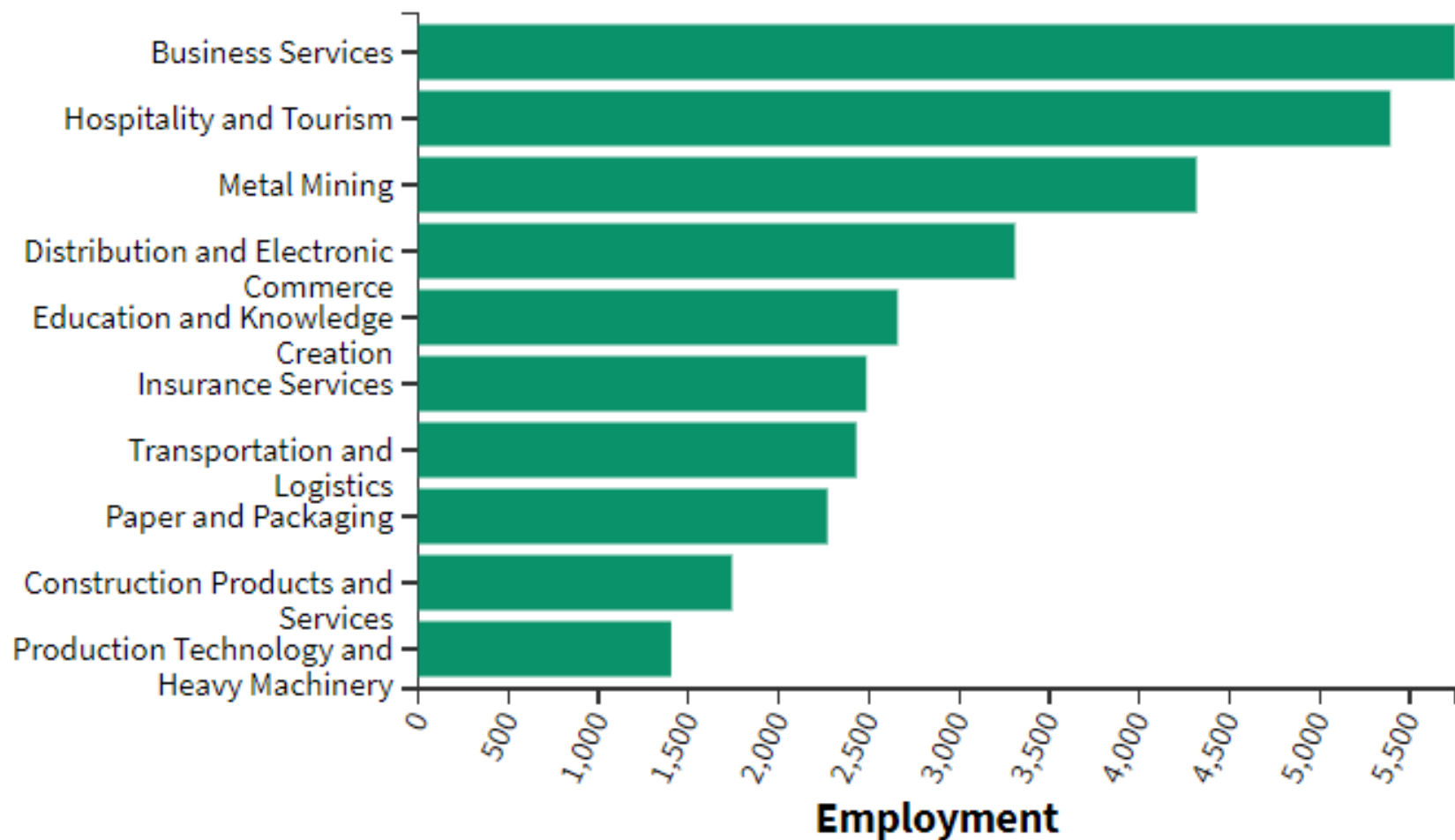
Sufficient
Undeveloped Land
Under Public Control
for Future Industrial

<u>Site Description</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u># of Sites</u>
GREDA - Airport Site	20.0	1
IEDC - IEIP Site (Cohasset)	63.5	1
	<hr/> 83.5	<hr/> 2

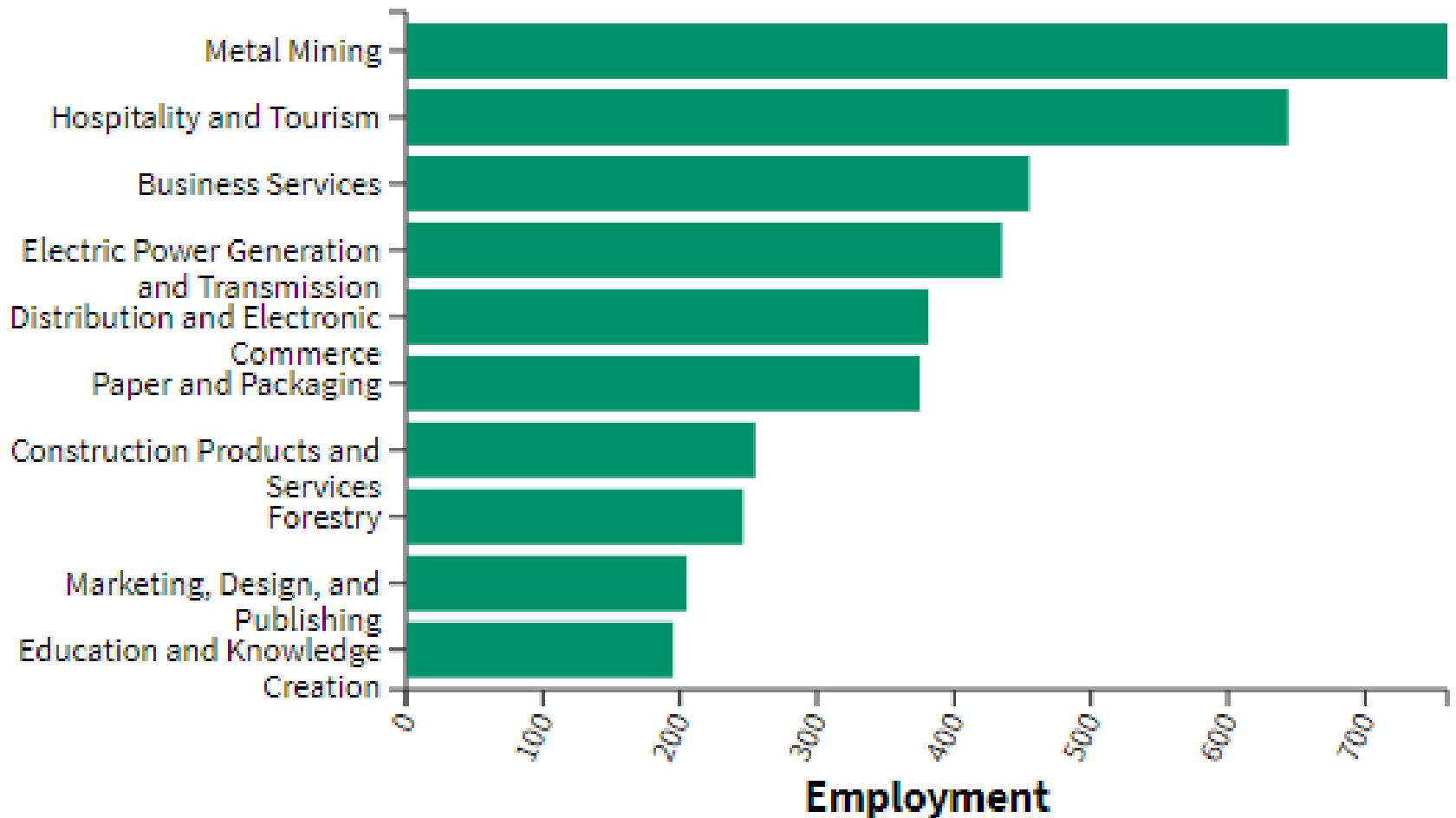
Former
Ainsworth Site
available, but not
publically owned

Is there an opportunity for Grand Rapids
to increase employment in
Business Services?

Top Clusters by Employment



Top Clusters by Employment



- What can be done to support key sectors in the Grand Rapids economy?
- Is diversification important? What opportunities exist to diversify the Grand Rapids economy?
- What can Grand Rapids do to attract talent?
- What development or redevelopment sites should be addressed to support the health and vitality of Grand Rapids' economy?