# NORTH STAR +Sun Prairie, WI

Branding Research Presentation March 2023



#### Research Instruments

- Research and Planning Audit
- Communication and Media Audit
- Situation Analysis
- Site Visit:
  - Familiarization Tour
  - Stakeholders/Residents Interviews
  - Focus Groups
  - Undercover Interviews
- Community Survey
- Brand Barometer
- Consumer Awareness & Perception Study (Quantitative):
  - Visitors & Non-visitors to Sun Prairie from Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee
- Competitive Positioning Review

#### **METHODOLOGY**

#### Internal Qualitative Data Site Visits Intercepts Focus Groups Stakeholder Interviews (in person, phone conversations, and via Zoom)



#### Internal Qualitative Data

**Best Descriptors** 

Growing Progressive Forward thinking Vibrant Small big town Affordable Welcoming/friendly Environmentally conscious/sustainable Likable Endearing and a little quirky Safe Potential

Growth potential Parks Schools Great for families Proximity to Madison Generous, supportive community Ag heritage: Corn Fest Central location; transportation corridor Educated workforce Forward-thinking leaders Room to grow (compared to Madison)

#### **Greatest Assets**

Prairie Athletic Club (largest in WI) Patrick Marsh area Proximity to airport(s) Jimmy the Groundhog Insurance companies y Strong planning department Small town atmosphere: handshake deals Approachable government High school athletics (new stadium)

#### Internal Qualitative Data

#### Challenges

Managing growth Being overshadowed by Madison Professional job growth Diversification among economic development East vs. West divide (Hwy 151) Lacking diversity (people and services) Limited workforce Resistant to change Infrastructure keeping up w/ growth Resistance to apartments Rising cost of living Rebuilding after explosion Supply chain issues for home building Perception of being far away Outside perception of crime (Gun Prairie) Convincing West SP to come downtown

#### What We Think Outsiders Say

"If you're from Madison, you don't think much of Sun Prairie. If you're from the smaller outlying communities, you rely on Sun Prairie for all conveniences."
"It's changed so much over the years. It isn't the Sun Prairie of old."
"There's nothing to do there. Might as well go to Madison."
"I didn't know there was anything beyond the West side of the city."

THEMES

## Internal Qualitative Data

Missing

Arts and culture Entertainment and nightlife Higher wage jobs Awareness Housing Inventory Childcare (options and affordable) Vision and follow-through Signature attraction Water recreation Reasons to visit Public transit Destination retail downtown

People Cannery Square History (agriculture based) Stable jobs Schools Rec center/ice arena City events (Corn Fest, Groundhog Day, Farmers Market) Safe, comfortable place to raise a family Natural environment

Most Important to Identity

#### **Opportunities**

THEMES

Growth potential New families Warehousing/logistics Proximity to Madison Proximity to airport(s) Downtown vibrancy Incorporating minority groups more

## **Internal Quantitative Data**



# **Brand Barometer** 544 Resident Responses



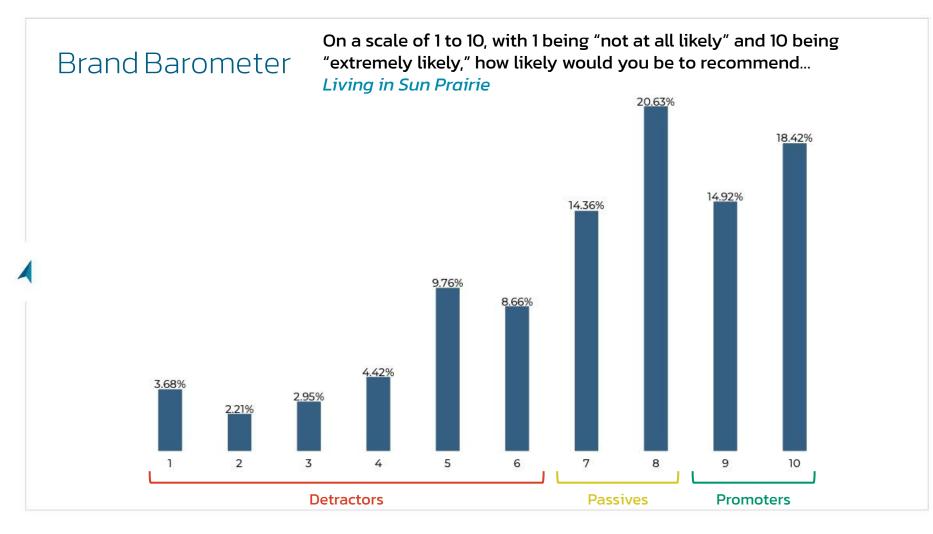
Answering The Question:

"On a scale of 1–10, how likely are you to recommend **living, visiting or conducting business in** Sun Prairie to a friend or colleague?"

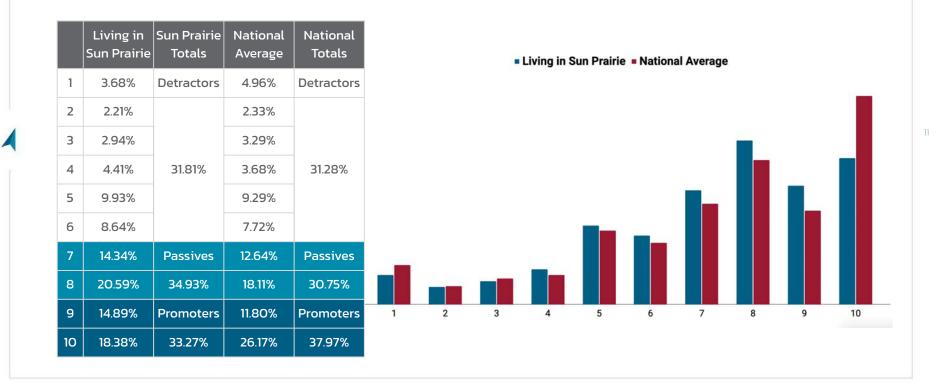
The Math: Promoters (9-10); Passives (7-8); Detractors (1-6)

Promoters – Detractors = Brand Advocacy Score (Net Promoter Score)

Passives are not counted.



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Living in Sun Prairie* 

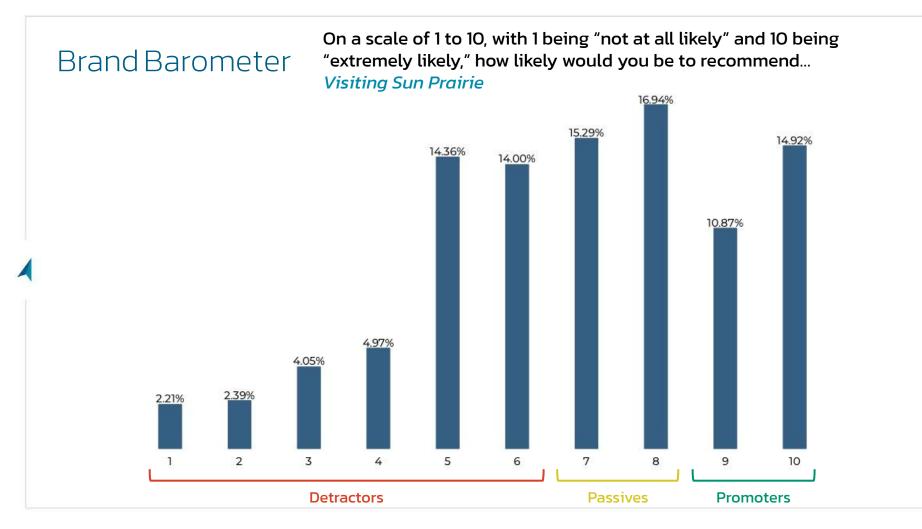


On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Living in Sun Prairie* 

# 1.46%

Overall Brand Advocacy Score Living in Sun Prairie

(% of Promoters minus % of Detractors)



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Visiting Sun Prairie* 

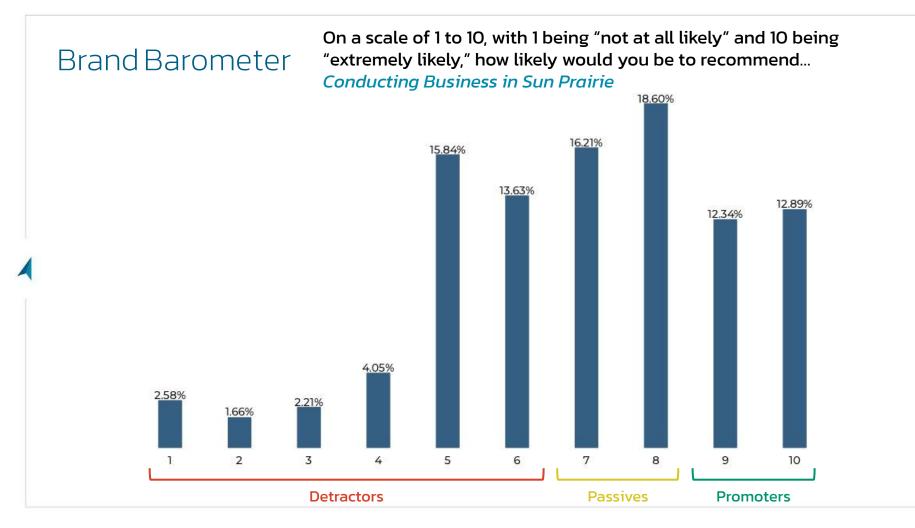
	Visiting Sun Prairie	Sun Prairie Totals	National Average	National Totals
1	2.21%	Detractors	3.35%	Detractors
2	2.39%		2.25%	
3	4.04%		3.42%	
4	4.96%	42.09%	3.89%	29.96%
5	14.34%	-	9.27%	-
6	14.15%		7.78%	
7	15.26%	Passives	11.46%	Passives
8	16.91%	32.17%	15.59%	27.05%
9	10.85%	Promoters	12.27%	Promoters
10	14.89%	25.74%	30.72%	42.98%

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Visiting Sun Prairie* 

# -16.35%

Overall Brand Advocacy Score Visiting Sun Prairie

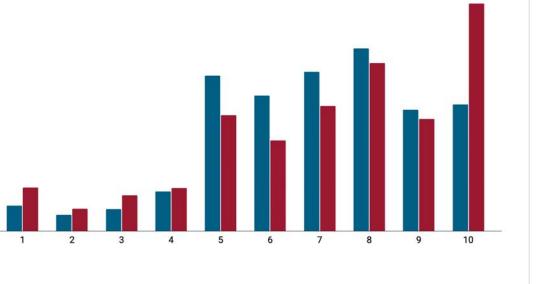
(% of Promoters minus % of Detractors)



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Conducting Business in Sun Prairie* 

	Biz. in Sun Prairie	Sun Prairie Totals	National Average	National Totals
1	2.57%	Detractors	4.43%	Detractors
2	1.65%		2.25%	35.68%
3	2.21%		3.62%	
4	4.04%	40.07%	4.38%	
5	15.81%		11.78%	
6	13.79%		9.21%	
7	16.18%	Passives	12.72%	Passives
8	18.57%	34.75%	17.08%	29.80%
9	12.32%	Promoters	11.41%	Promoters
10	12.87%	25.19%	23.12%	34.54%

Conducting Business in Sun Prairie National Average



On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend... *Conducting Business in Sun Prairie* 

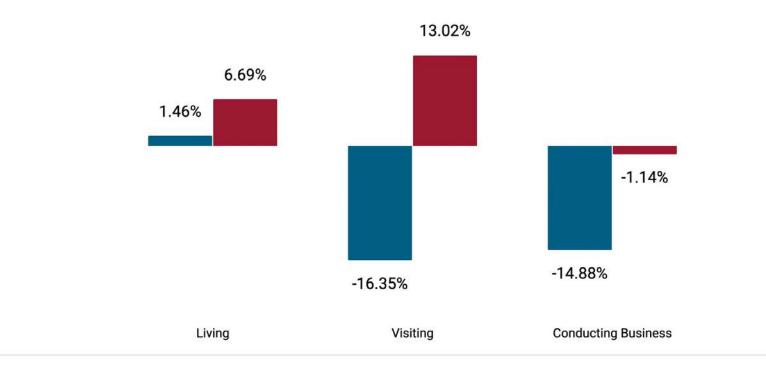
# -14.88%

Overall Brand Advocacy Score Conducting Business in Sun Prairie

(% of Promoters minus % of Detractors)

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all likely" and 10 being "extremely likely," how likely would you be to recommend Sun Prairie to a friend or colleague...

Sun Prairie National Average



# **Community Survey** 692 Total Responses



#### SURVEY DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS

Efforts to distribute the survey throughout the community were led by the City of Sun Prairie and included:

- City Administrator included a link to the Brand Survey in his Friday emails to City employees.
- Had QR code on materials at Downtown Sun Prairie Streets of Sun Prairie events.
- Sent the link with information multiple times to a comprehensive list of Community, Business, School, Faith, Organization, and City leaders.
- Encouraged City Council to share the link with their constituents.
- Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce shared the link with information to its members.
- City's Economic Development Department shared the link with information to Business Park businesses.
- Promoted the brand survey on Facebook pages: City of Sun Prairie and Visit Sun Prairie.
- Was interviewed about the Brand Study by the Sun Prairie Media Center.
- Rose Freidel shared information about the Brand Survey with Rotary.
- Half sheets with QR codes were made available at Farmers Market info table.

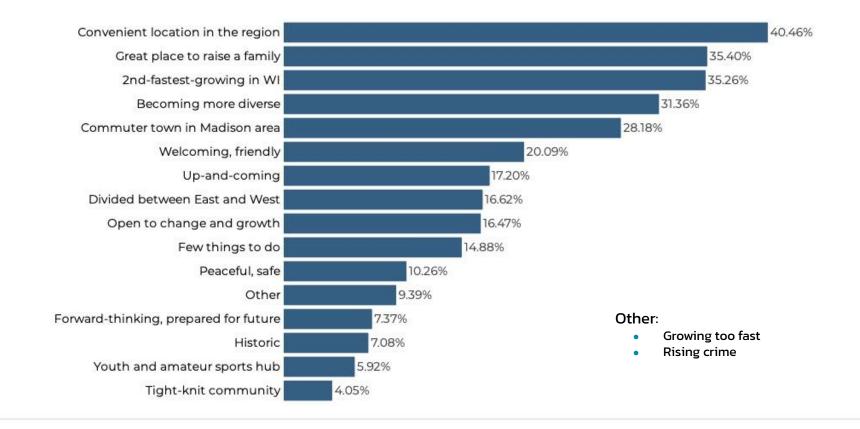
#### SURVEY DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS

#### Community Survey

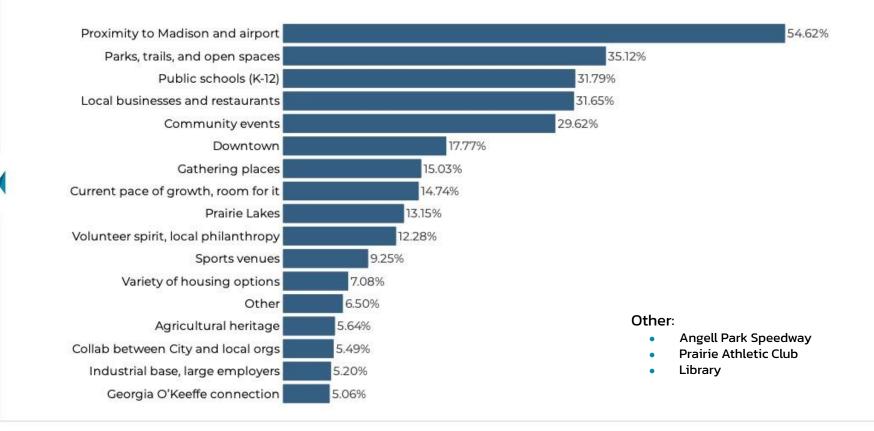
City of Sun Prairie survey distribution efforts continued:

- 1:1 conversations with business leaders, including Clyde Gaines (Capital Land Music Fest), Gustavo Martinez (Guimo's Mexican Restaurant), Mark Rudd (Mr. Rudd's Barber Shop), Jerome Jansen (JJ's Boxing), and Korab Krasniqi (Edward Jones, property owner in Downtown Sun Prairie)
- Provided Guimo's and Fernando Mora (Abarotes El Primo) each with 400 flyers that included the brand survey QR code, and promoted the Multicultural Fair to hand out to customers.
- Provided Salvatore's Pizza with 400 flyers for pizza boxes that included the brand survey QR code and promoted the Multicultural Fair.
- Included a Brand Survey QR code on promotion materials promoting the Multicultural Fair; the QR code also linked to the Multicultural Fair webpage which also included the Brand Survey.
- 7/25: Sunshine Place Sun Prairie handed out 200 flyers with meals.
- 8/11: Distributed flyers to Stuff the Bus caregivers during Westside School and Sheehan Park pick-ups.
- 8/17-8/18: Brand survey was promoted at the Sweet Corn Festival, at the Volunteer Booth, and by Guimo's restaurant.
- 9/1: Mary Ellen Havel Lang promoted the survey at Community Schools meeting.
- 9/23: Multicultural Fair: promoted the survey at the Info Booth with a laptop on site for people to use.

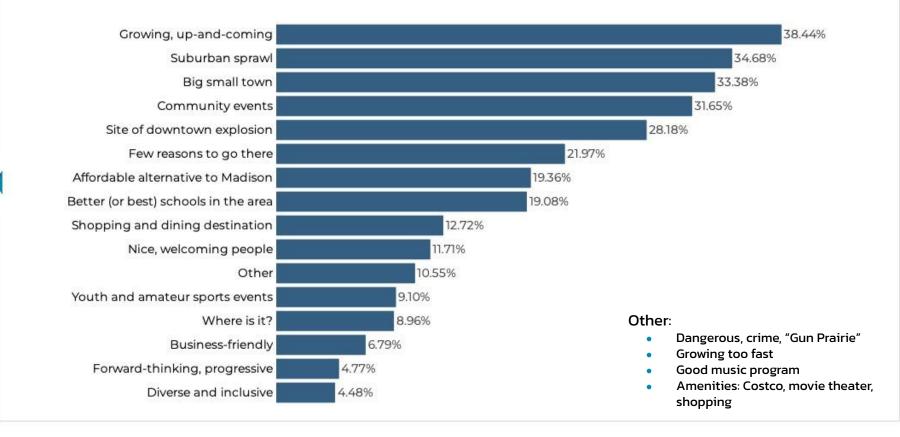
Which of the following are the best descriptors for Sun Prairie? *Choose three answers.* 



In your opinion, what are Sun Prairie's three greatest assets? *Choose three answers.* 



How do people throughout Dane County and beyond (non-residents of Sun Prairie) describe Sun Prairie? *Choose three answers.* 



What do people not know that they should know about Sun Prairie? What are its hidden gems?

# 1. Its Parks\*

2. Farmers Market

3. Library

**Top parks mentioned**: Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area, Angell Park, Dream Park, Sheehan Park, Wetmore Park

What is the first adjective that comes to mind when describing the following communities in Wisconsin?

#### Cottage Grove

- Small town
- Growing
- Rural
- Quaint

#### Fitchburg

- Crime, dangerous
- Sprawl
- Expensive
- Growing

#### Middleton

- Expensive
- Rich, wealthy
- Snobby
- Nice, upscale

#### Stoughton

- Norwegian
- Historic
- Rural
- Small town

#### Verona

- Epic
- Growing
- Expensive
- Rich, wealthy

#### Waunakee

- Rich, wealthy
- Expensive
- Growing
- White

What distinguishes Sun Prairie from other communities in the Madison area?

#### Active and Inviting Community

- "There is always something to do or celebrate, and they get the word out with community ambassadors. I feel welcomed and part of the community when I try something new."
- "Great coordination between local government and local businesses. Wonderful volunteer spirit, and lots of opportunities to be involved in the community."
- "Tightness of the community when tragedy happens, coming together to help the victims"
- "We value connection over status, and local businesses are wonderful!"
- "Its history as an affordable, welcoming community for all people. We don't just say we're welcoming; our jobs and housing options prove it."

#### An Eye on the Future

- "We are a forward-thinking city that embraces growth, diversity, and our small town heritage. You can do it all here and easily get to other places."
- "Its diversity and progressive attitudes while trying to be the best place for people to not only live but work here"
- "Growing with thought"

What distinguishes Sun Prairie from other communities in the Madison area?

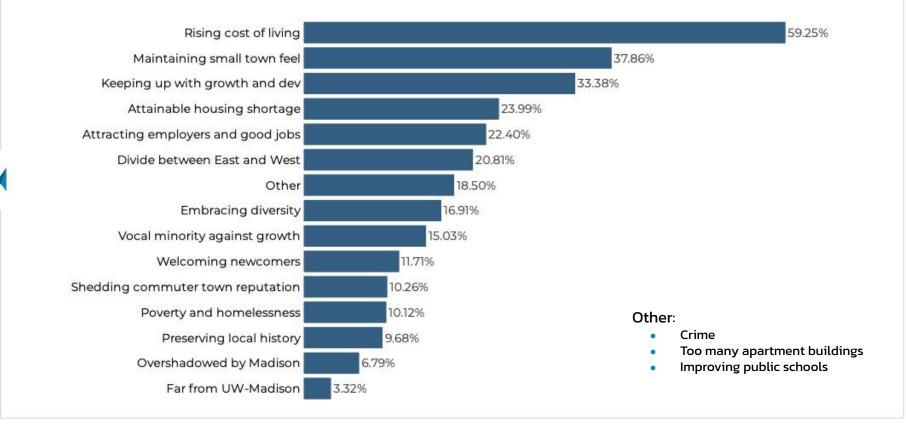
#### **Growing Pains**

- "You can't have real growth without being a little uncomfortable sometimes. Do we want to be boring and totally comfortable? Or do we want to grow and thrive?"
- "This community grew too fast, and as a result of it, we have high crime and problems with our school district and areas of the city that are not safe, especially at night."
- "Used to have a small-town feel, but as the proportion of rentals is outpacing homes, I feel a lack of community and connection."

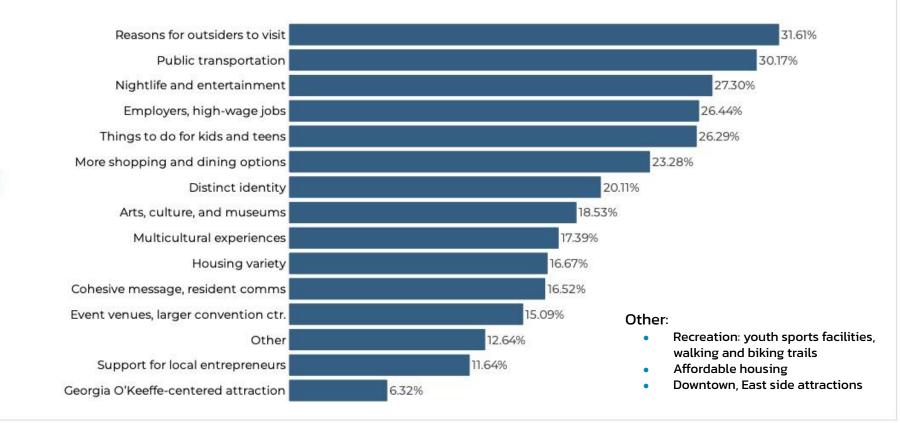
#### **Great Location**

- "We are a forward-thinking city that embraces growth, diversity, and our small town heritage. You can do it all here and easily get to other places."
- "Minutes from beautiful country hiking trails and downtown nightlife. Quick interstate access to travel to many parts of Wisconsin and the Midwest."

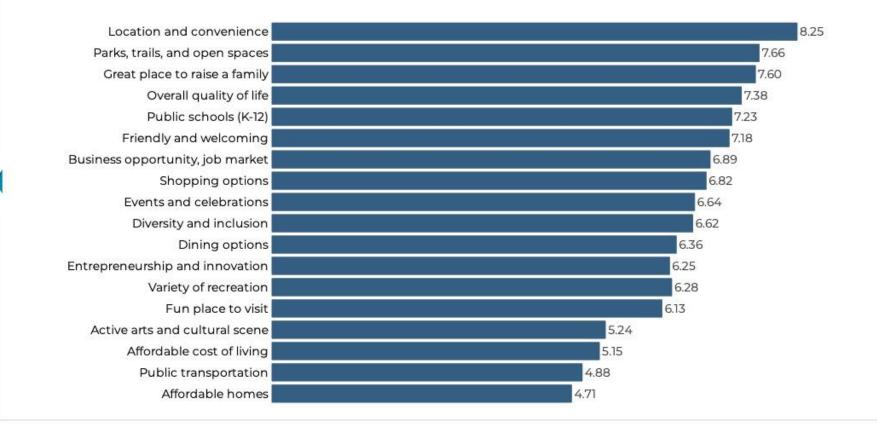
In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges currently facing Sun Prairie? *Choose three answers.* 



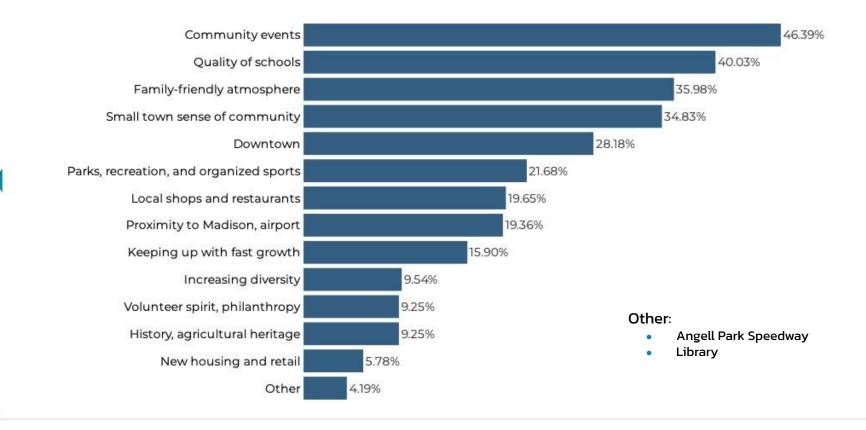
In your opinion, what is missing in Sun Prairie? *Choose three answers.* 



In your opinion, please rate the following Sun Prairie attributes and characteristics on a scale from 1-10, where 1 is "Poor" and 10 is "Excellent."



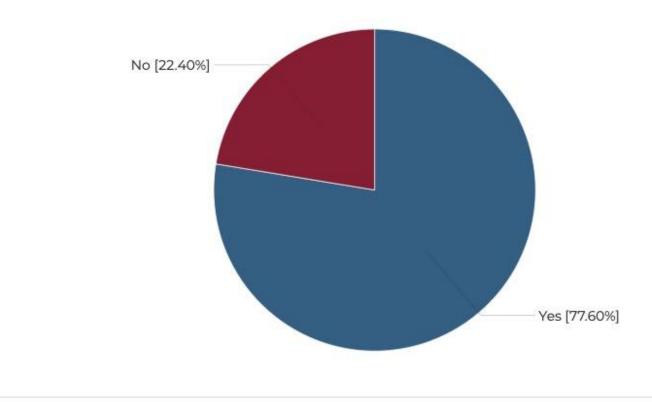
In your opinion, what three things are most important to Sun Prairie's identity as a community (without these, Sun Prairie is not Sun Prairie)? *Choose three answers.* 



# **Brand Character**



Would you like to answer 6 more questions about visual elements and the brand character of Sun Prairie?



The pairs of phrases below represent opposite characteristics. Please indicate which phrase is a better descriptor for Sun Prairie by marking an option on the spectrum between one characteristic and the other.



Which vehicle best represents the personality of Sun Prairie?

# 50.99% Minivan

Which of the images below best represents the personality of Sun Prairie? *Vehicles* 



Minivan 50.99%



Hybrid Sedan 15.93%



Luxury SUV 15.93%



Pickup Truck 9.86%



Classic Car 3.95%





Off-road SUV 1.51%



Motorcycle 0.61%

Which **Building/Architectural Style** best represents the personality of Sun Prairie?

# 81.28% Suburban Home

Which of the images below best represents the personality of Sun Prairie? Buildings/Architectural Styles



Suburban Home 81.28%



Urban Living



Single-Family Victorian 4.57%



Farmhouse



Neo-Gothic Mansion 0.91%



Corporate Offices 0.76%



Rustic Cabin 0.46%



Modern Home 0.46%

Which **Brand Personas/Archetypes** best represents the personality of Sun Prairie?

# 32.06% Helper

Which of the images below best represents the personality of Sun Prairie? *Brand Personas/Archetypes* 



Helper 32.06%



Teacher 22.55%



Best Friend 18.40%



Hero 9.97%



Geek 4.75%



# Creative 4.60%







Expert 3.22%



Entertainer 1.23%

What Visual Symbol/Landmark is iconic in Sun Prairie?

# 10.94% Downtown Sun Prairie

What is iconic in Sun Prairie? Visual Symbols/Landmarks



Downtown Sun Prairie



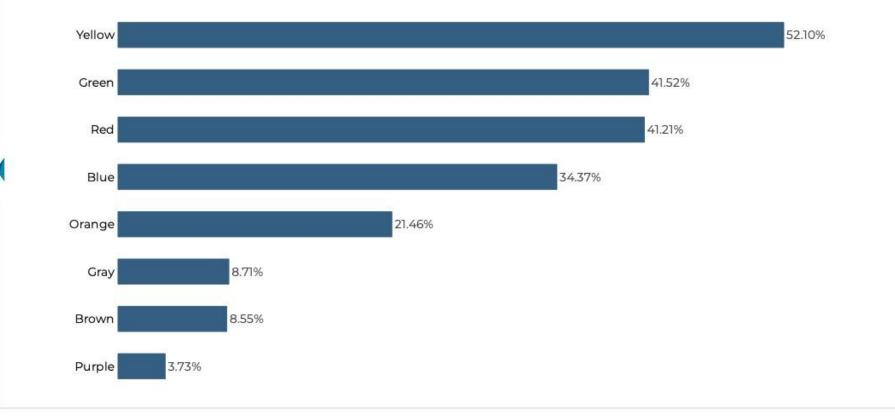
Sun Prairie Water Tower



Angell Park\* 7.72%

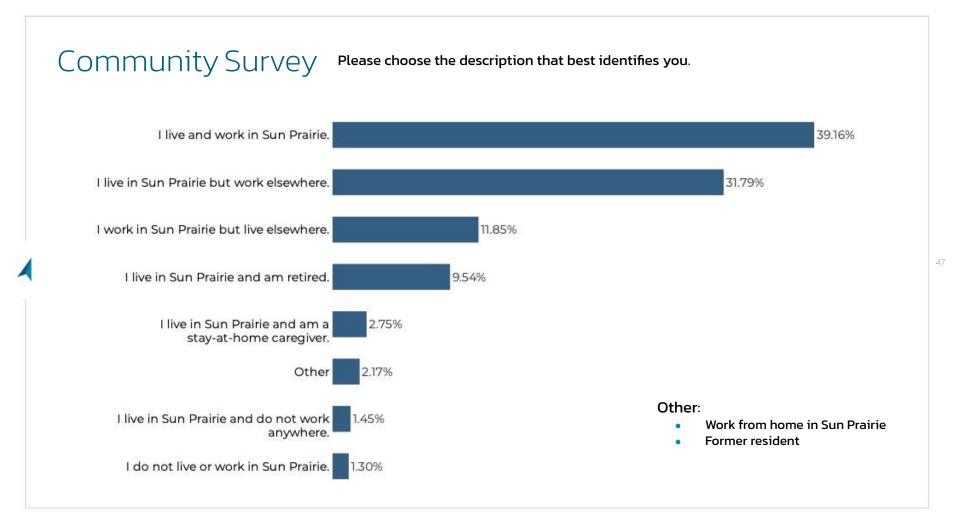
\*Includes mentions of both the Park and the Speedway.

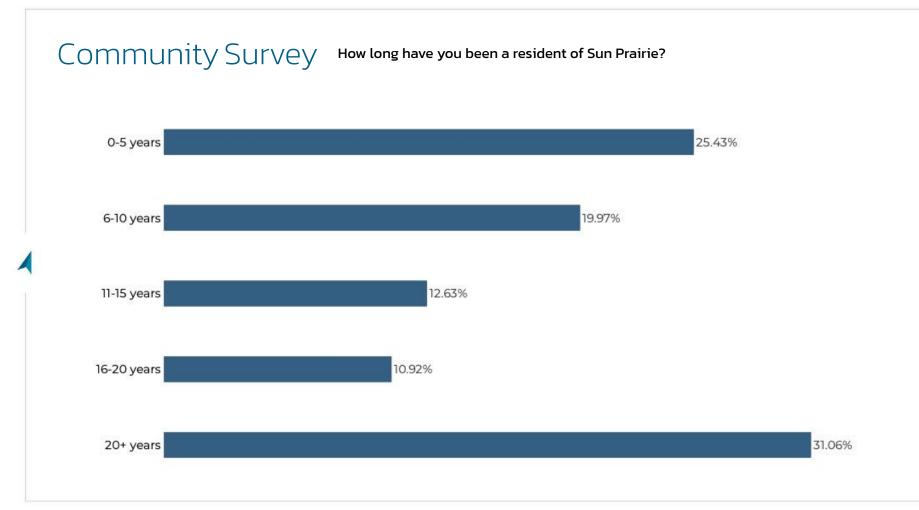
Which colors do you most associate with the personality and physical nature of Sun Prairie? *Choose three answers.* 

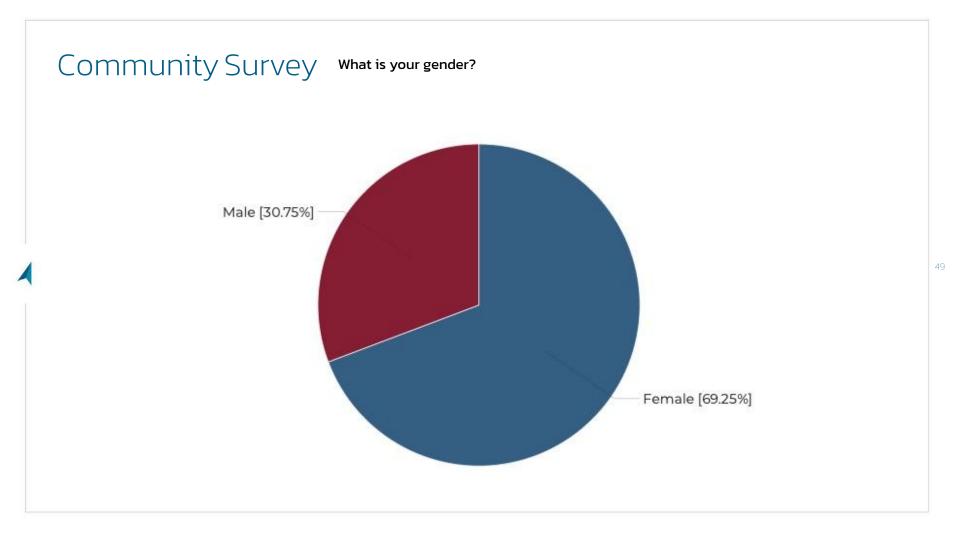


# Demographics

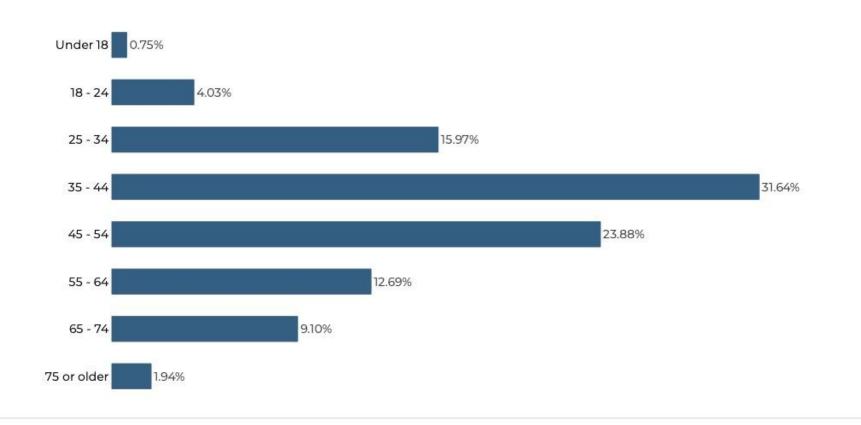


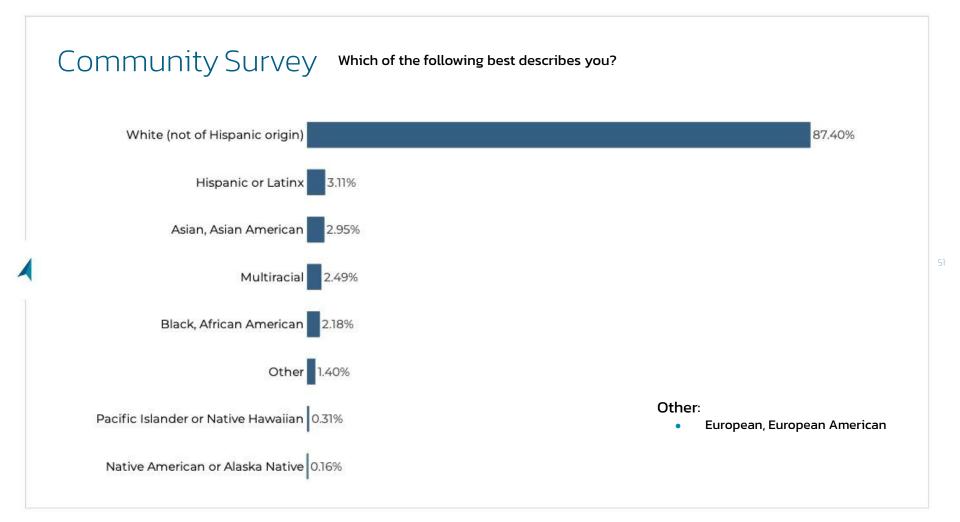


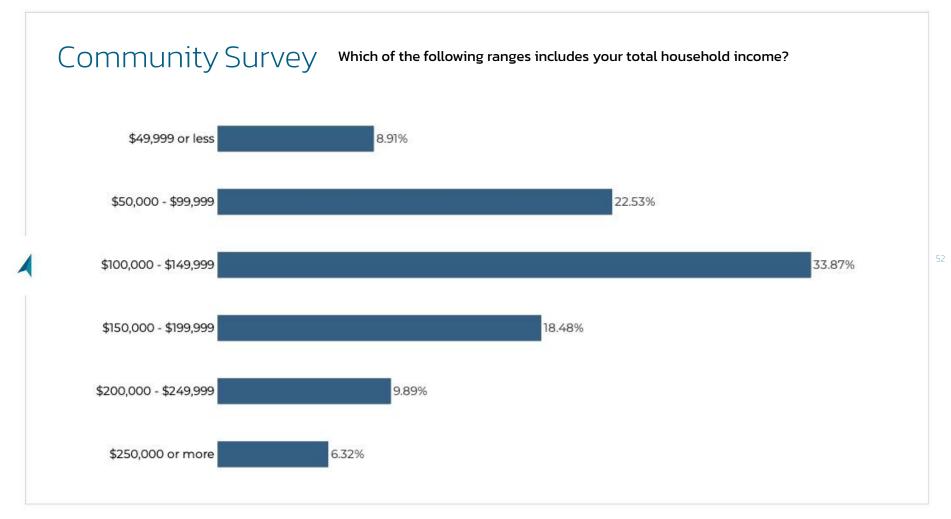




### Community Survey Which of the following includes your age?







# Consumer Awareness & Perception Study 237 External Responses



# Consumer Awareness and Perception Study

#### 237 Total Respondents

- 80 from Chicago, IL metropolitan area
- 78 from Madison, WI metropolitan area
- 79 from Milwaukee, WI metropolitan area

#### Terminations (1,678 Total)

- 8 for being under 18
- 328 for living outside of areas of interest
- 192 for having lived/worked in Sun Prairie or competitor communities
- 532 for being "Not at all familiar" with Sun Prairie
- 243 for attention/speeding checks
- 375 for overfilled demographic quotas

### Consumer Awareness and Perception Study

#### SURVEY ANALYSIS GROUPINGS

#### Markets

- Chicago, IL metro: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and McHenry Counties
- Madison, WI metro: Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa, Rock, and Sauk Counties
  - Excluding the municipalities of Fitchburg, Middleton, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, and Waunakee
- Milwaukee, WI metro: Milwaukee, Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties

#### Age

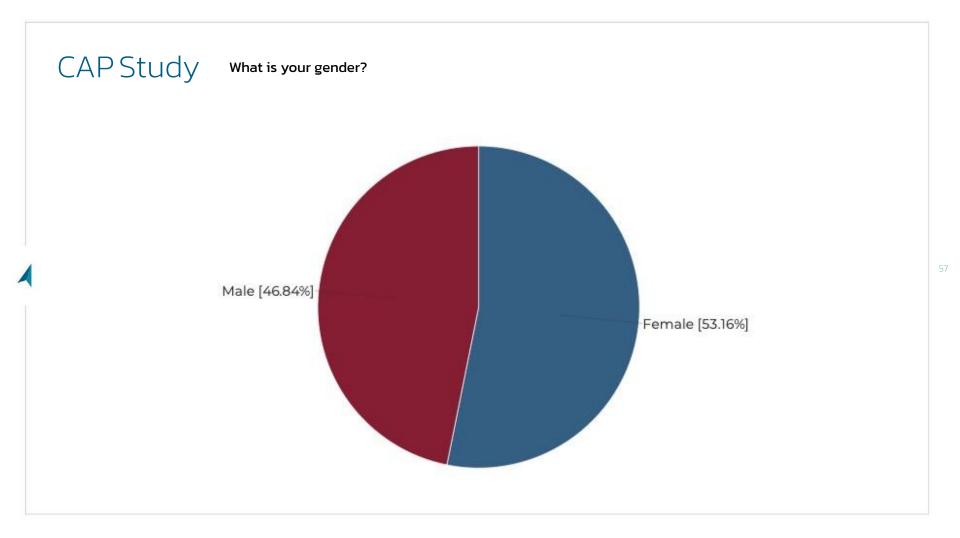
- Gen Z and Young Millennials: 18–34 years old
- Gen X and Old Millennials: 35–54 years old
- Boomers +: 55+ years old

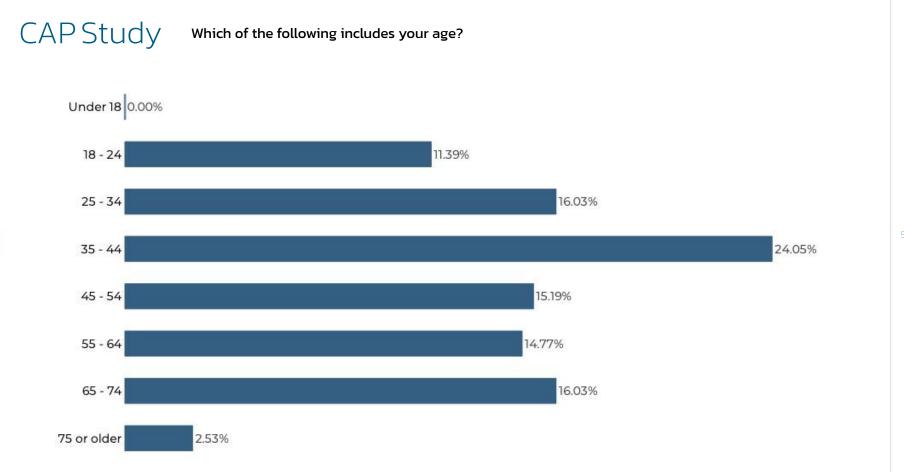
#### Visitors (166 respondents)

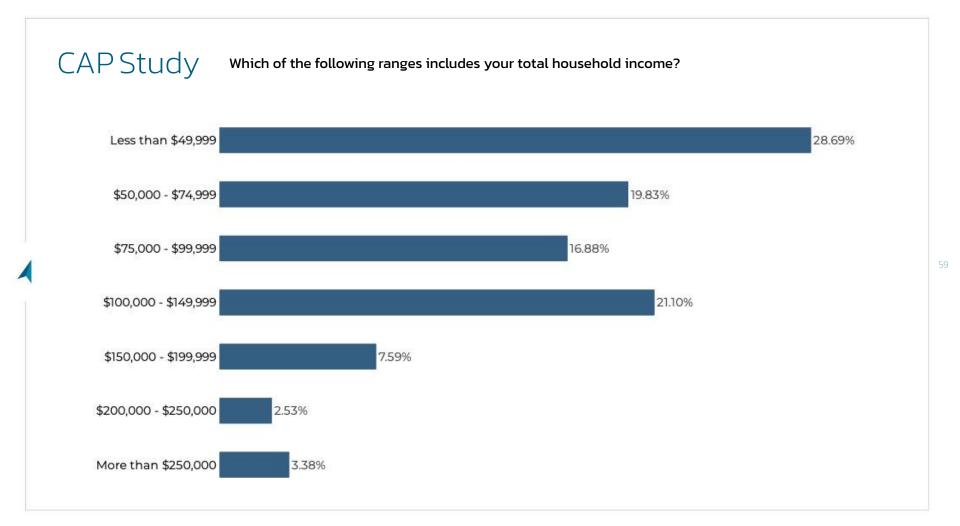
• Visitors indicated that they have visited Sun Prairie in the past 3 years.

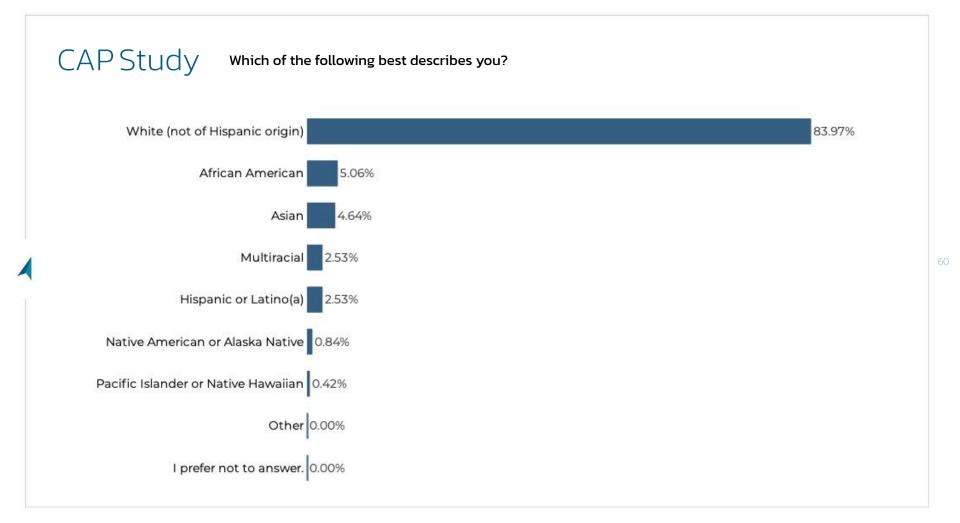
# Demographics

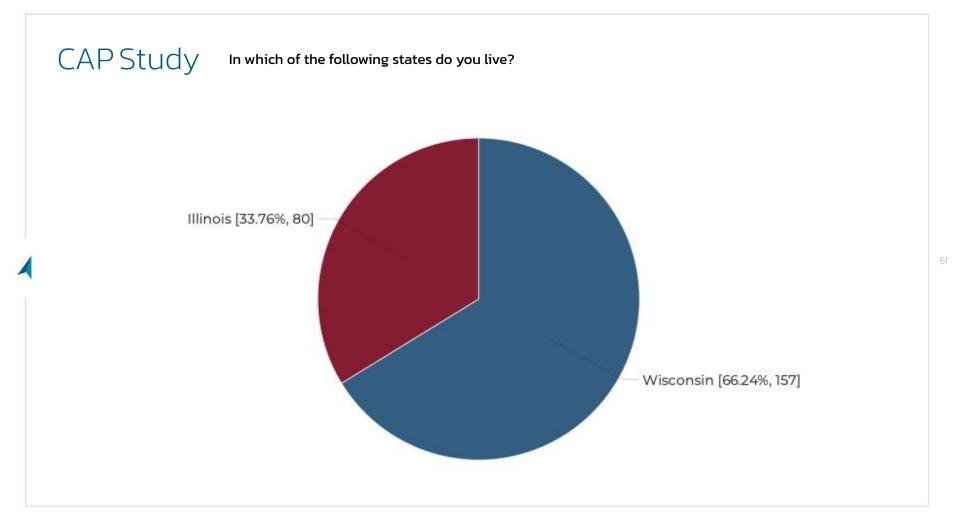






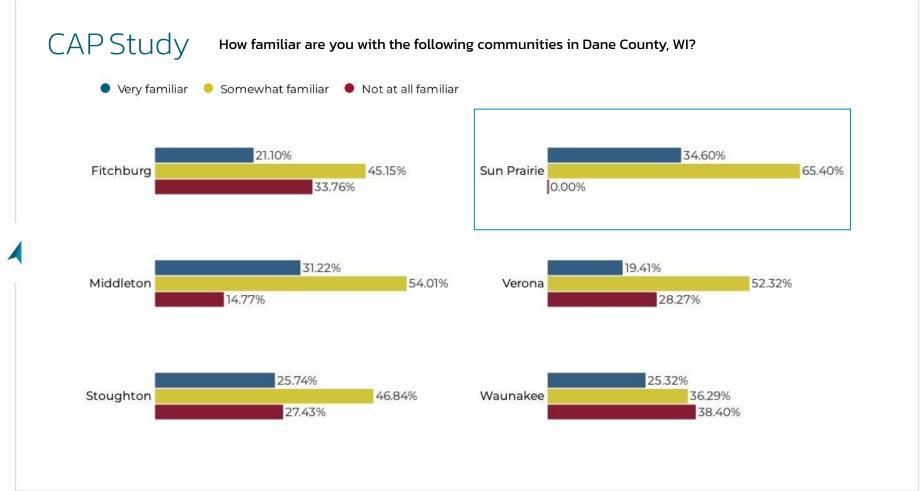


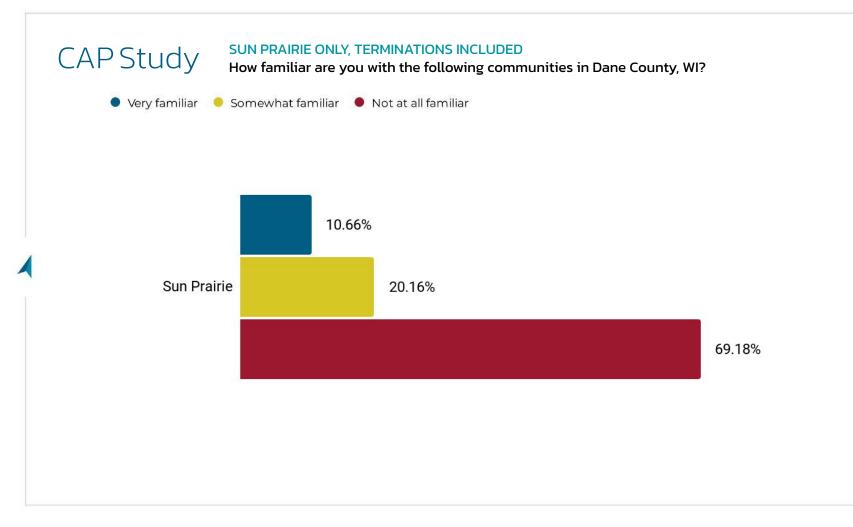


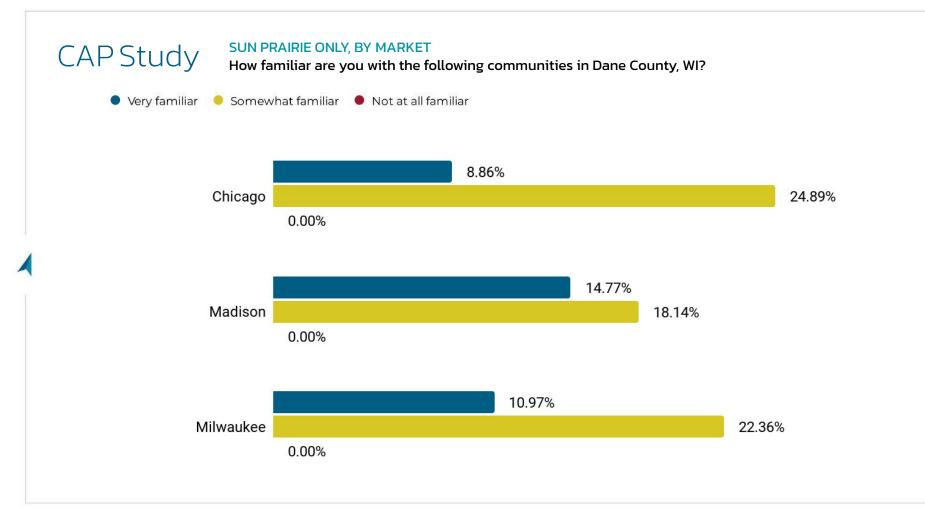


# Familiarity









# **Unaided Perceptions**



### CAPStudy

When you think of the following communities, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

#### Fitchburg

- Nice
- Suburban

#### Middleton

- Good Neighbor Festival
- Mustard Museum

#### Stoughton

- Norwegian heritage
- Farms, rural

#### Sun Prairie

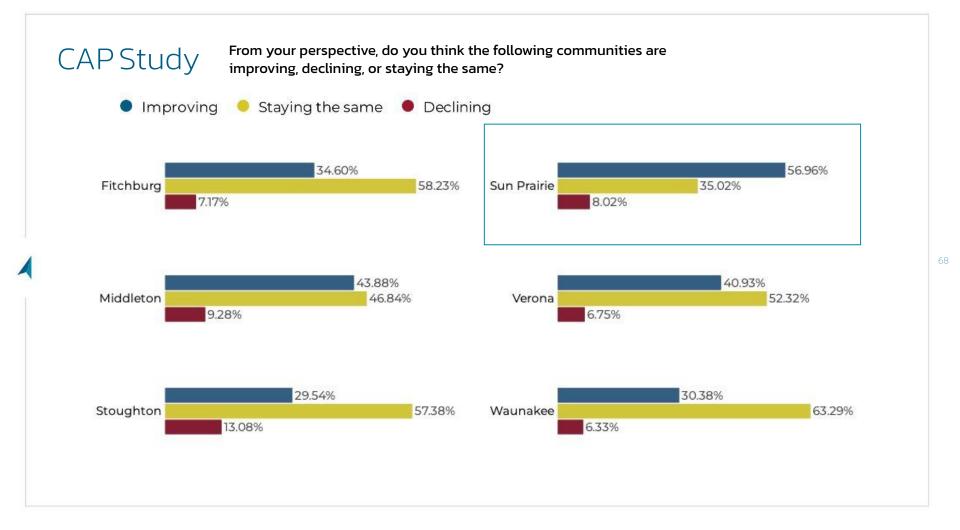
- Shopping (Costco, Cabela's, etc.)
- Jimmy the Groundhog

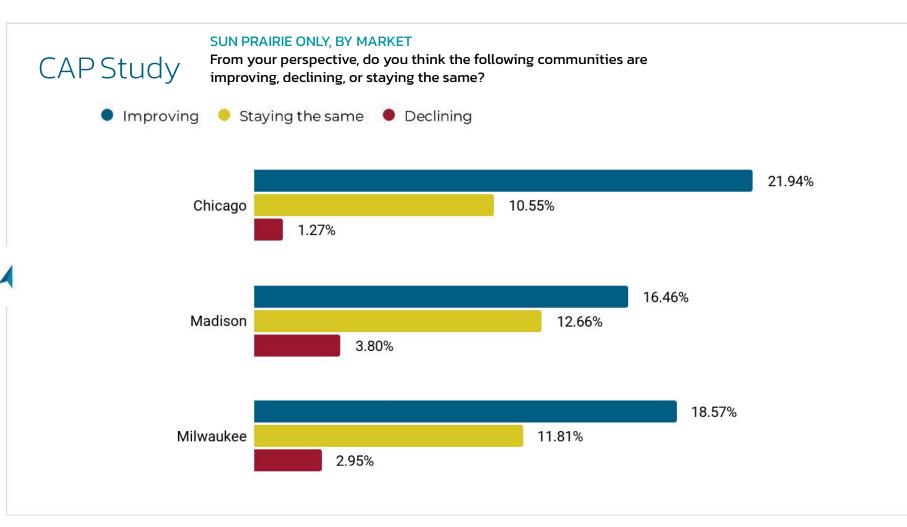
#### Verona

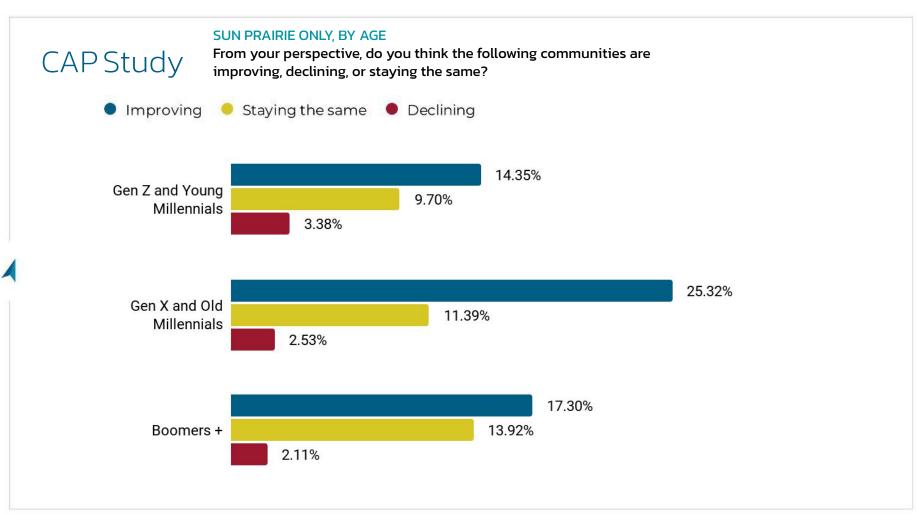
- Epic
- Suburban

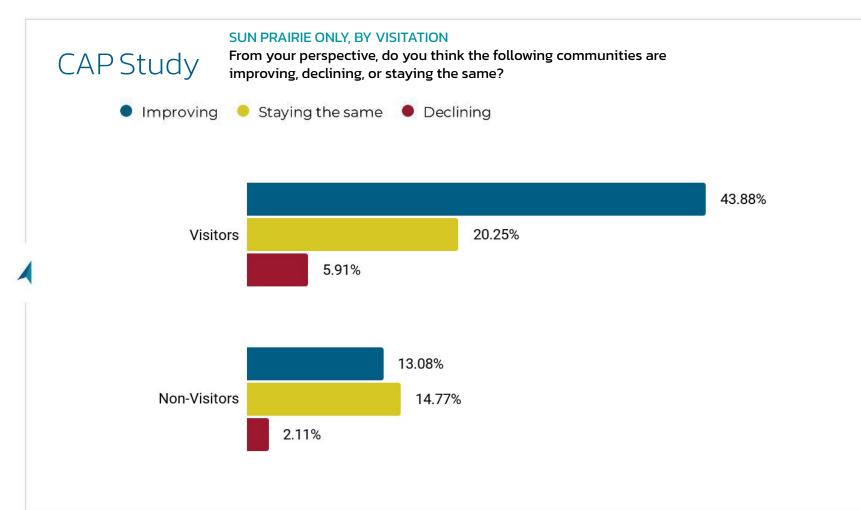
#### Waunakee

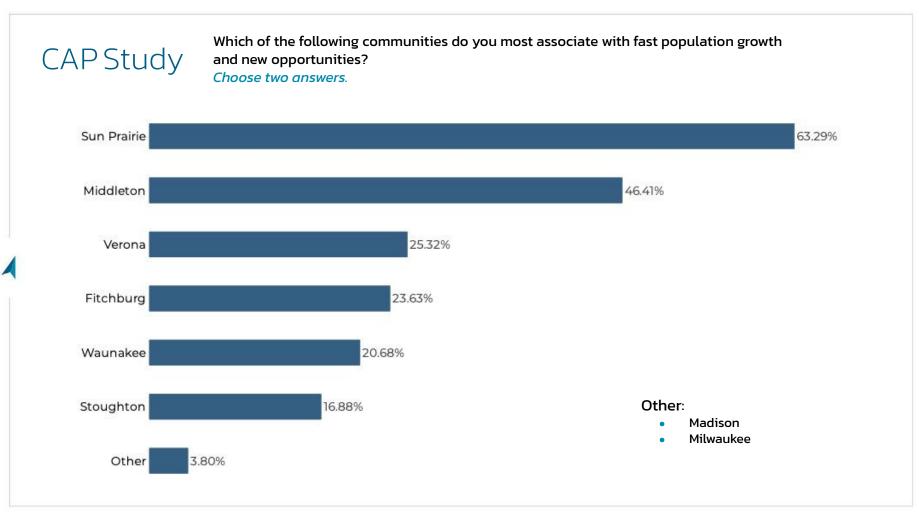
- Small town
- WaunaFest





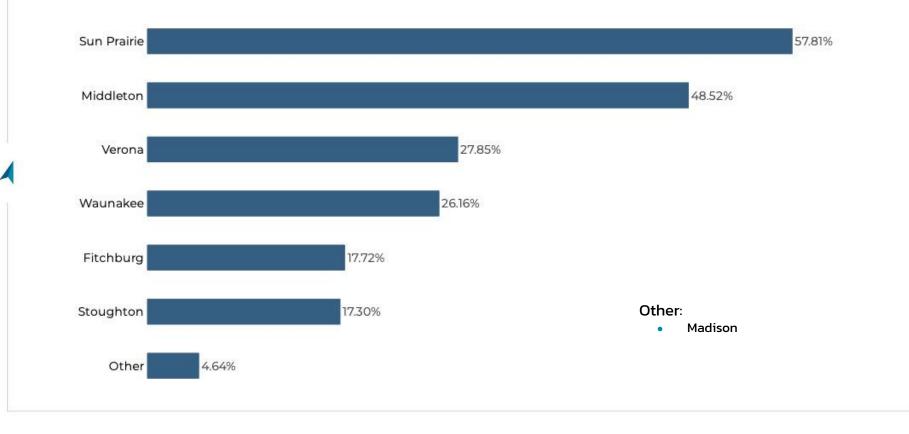








Which of the following communities do you most associate with great public schools and extracurricular activities? *Choose two answers.* 

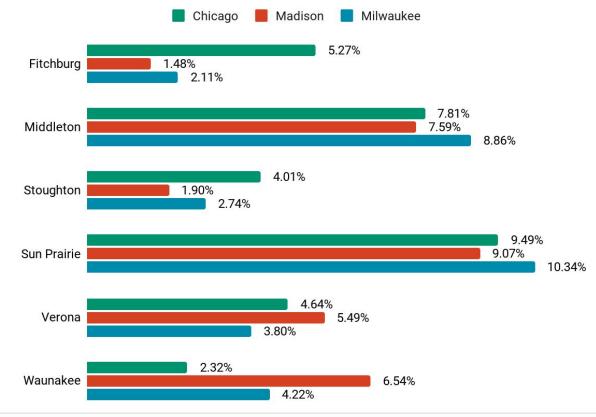


#### **BY MARKET**

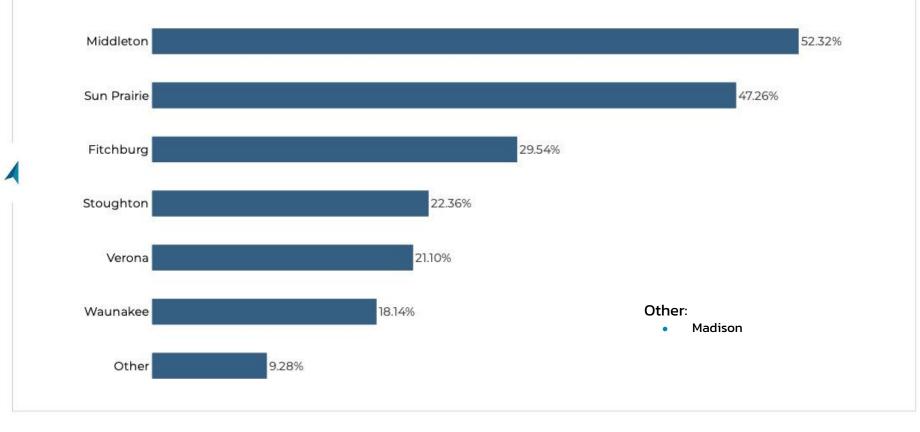
### CAPStudy

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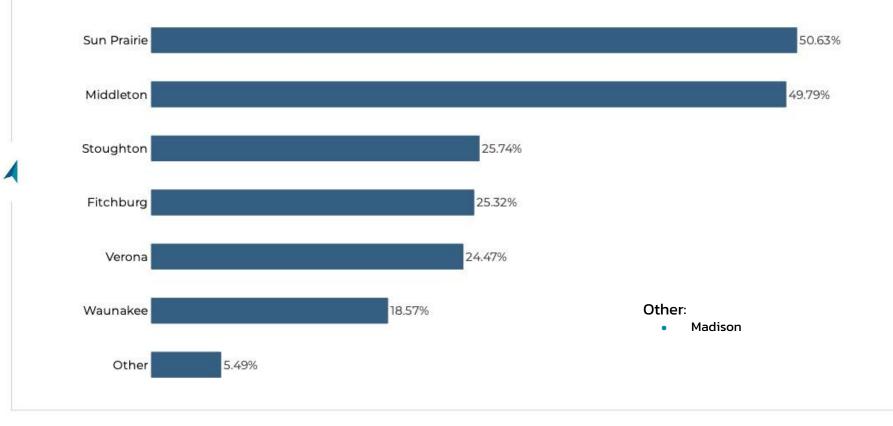
Choose two answers.



CAPStudy Which of the following communities do you most associate with diversity and multiculturalism? *Choose two answers.* 



Which of the following communities do you think have the best downtown shops, restaurants, and things to do? Choose two answers.

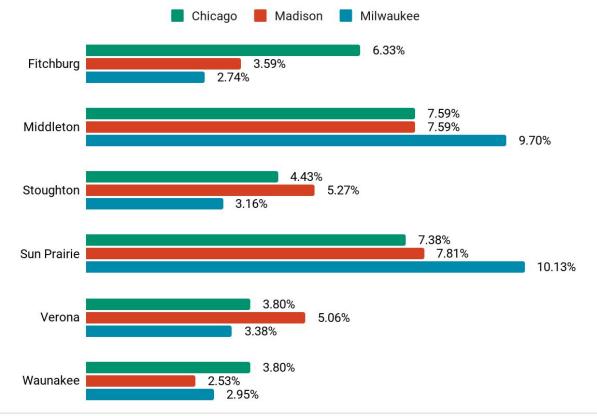


#### **BY MARKET**

### CAPStudy

Which of the following communities do you think have the best downtown shops, restaurants, and things to do?

Choose two answers.

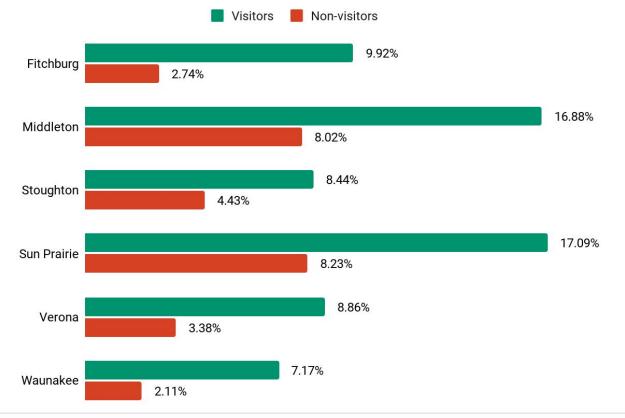


#### **BY VISITATION**

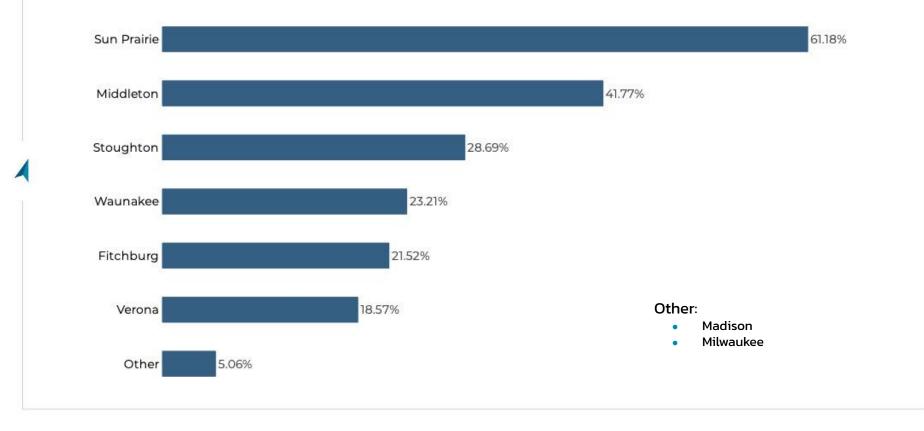
### CAPStudy

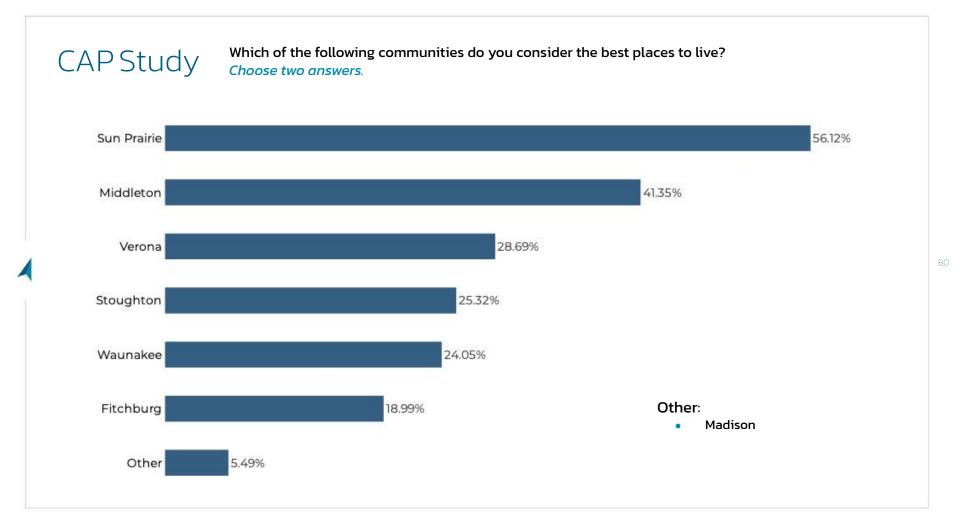
Which of the following communities do you think have the best downtown shops, restaurants, and things to do?

Choose two answers.



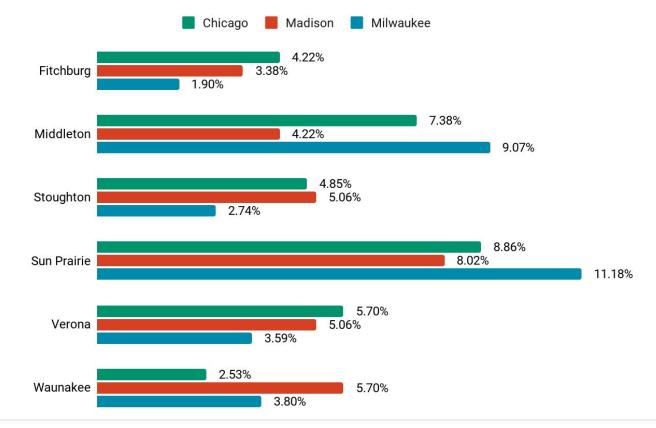
CAPStudy Which of the following communities do you think organize the best local events and festivals? *Choose two answers.* 



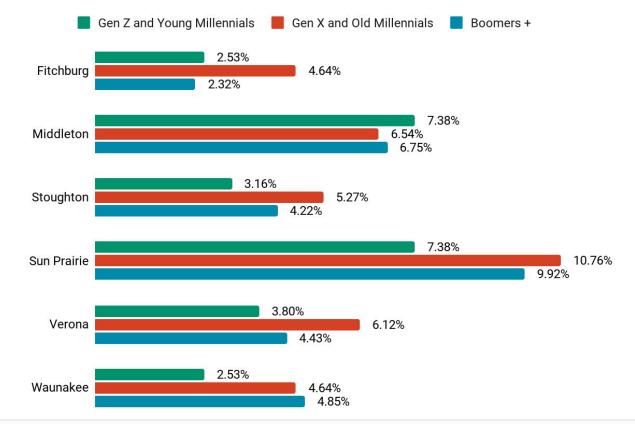


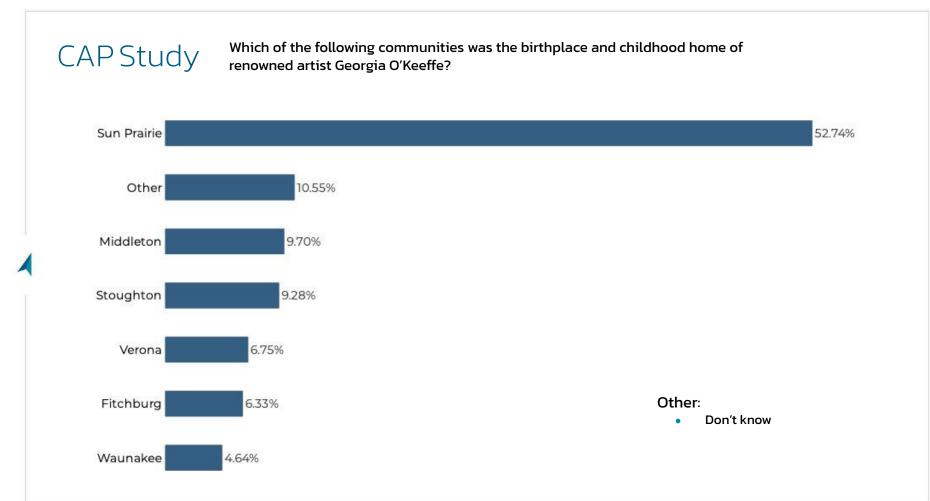
# CAP Study Which of the

Which of the following communities do you consider the best places to live? *Choose two answers.* 



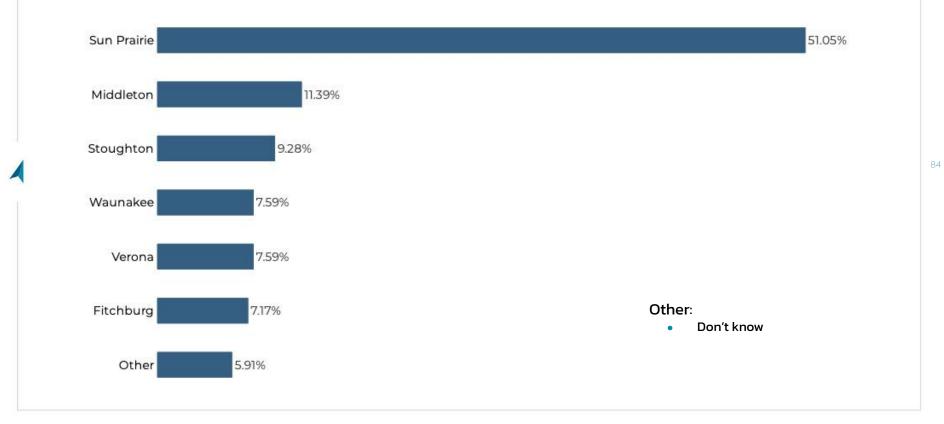
BY AGE Which of the following communities do you consider the best places to live? *Choose two answers.* 





CAP Study Which of the following the State of Wisc

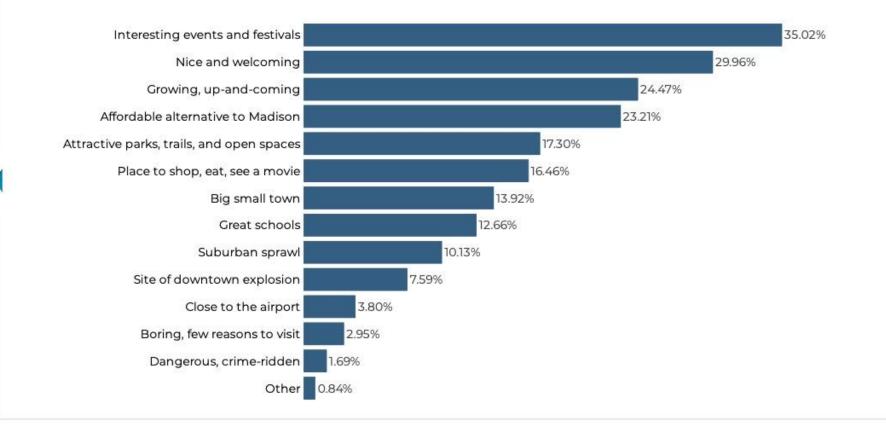
Which of the following communities hosts the oldest sweet corn festival in the State of Wisconsin each year?



# Perceptions



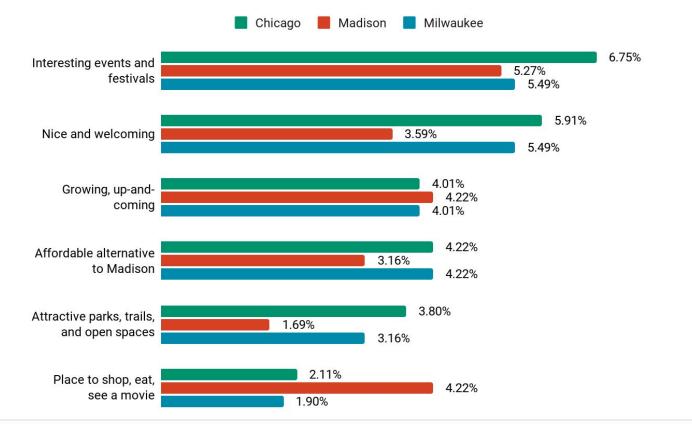
Which phrase or adjective best describes the City of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin? *Choose three answers.* 



#### BY MARKET, TOP ANSWERS ONLY

CAPStudy

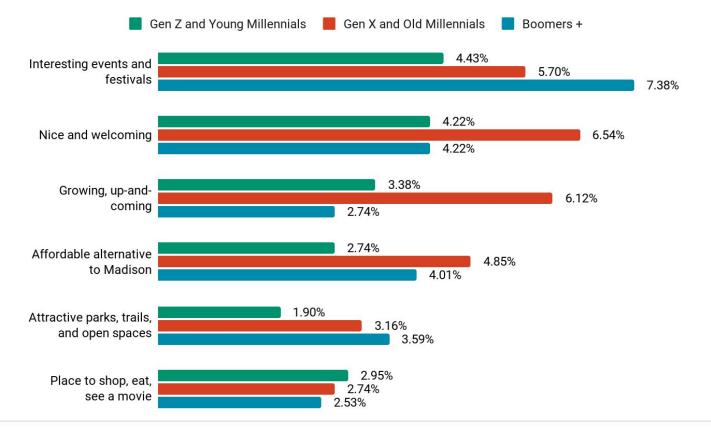
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#### BY AGE, TOP ANSWERS ONLY

CAPStudy

Which phrase or adjective best describes the City of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin? *Choose two answers.* 

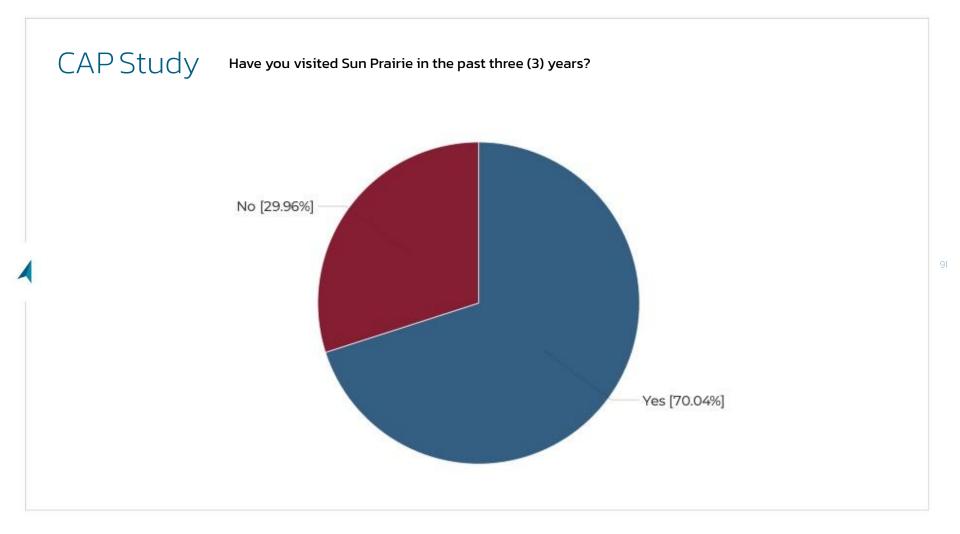


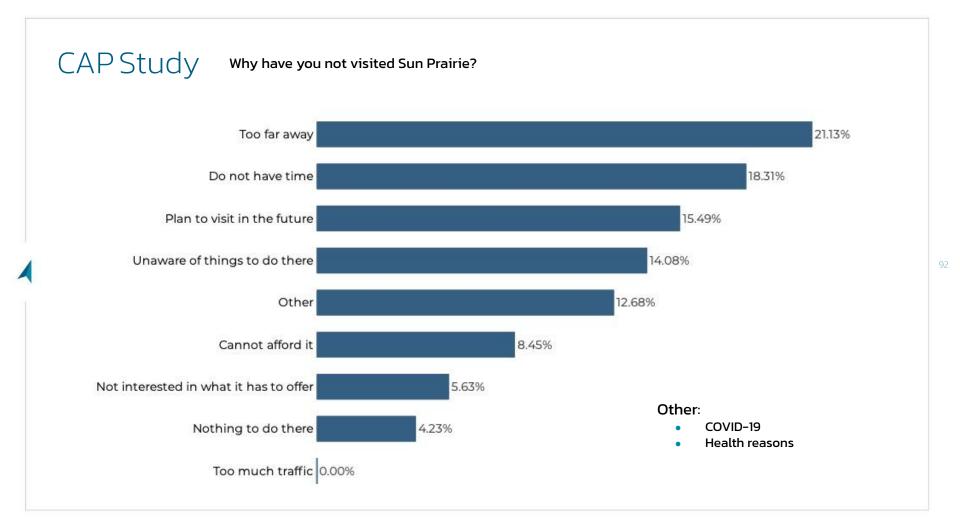
#### BY VISITATION, TOP ANSWERS ONLY CAPStudy Which phrase or adjective best describes the City of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin? Choose two answers. Visitors Non-visitors 11.60% Interesting events and festivals 5.91% 10.97% Nice and welcoming 4.01% 10.34% Growing, up-andcoming 1.90% 7.59% Affordable alternative to Madison 4.01% 4.64% Attractive parks, trails, and open spaces 4.01% 6.12% Place to shop, eat, see a movie 2.11%

89

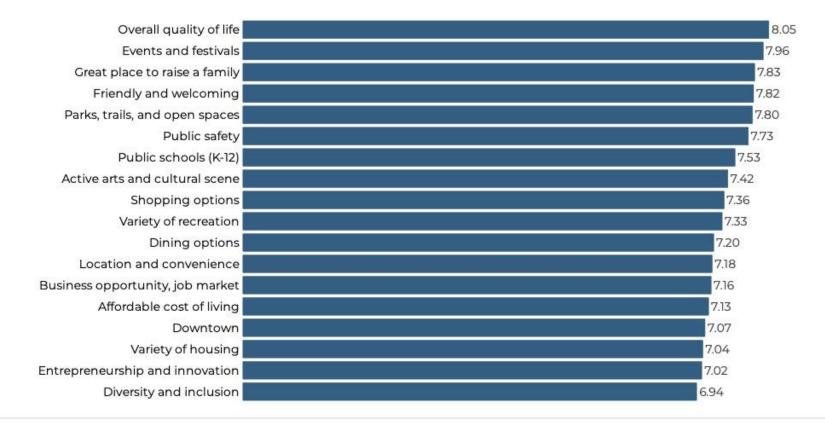
# **Non-Visitors**







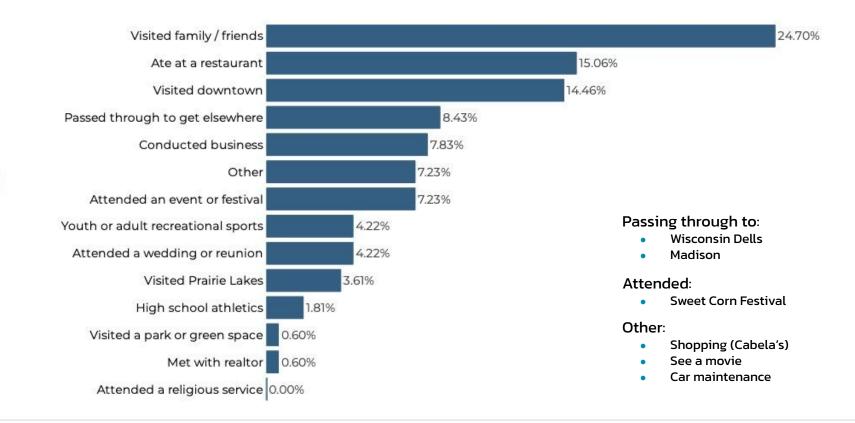
Based on your perception of Sun Prairie, in your opinion, please rate its following attributes on a scale of 1-10, where 1 is "Poor" and 10 is "Excellent."



# Visitors



#### What was the primary purpose or main reason you visited Sun Prairie on your most recent visit?



Lasting Impressions

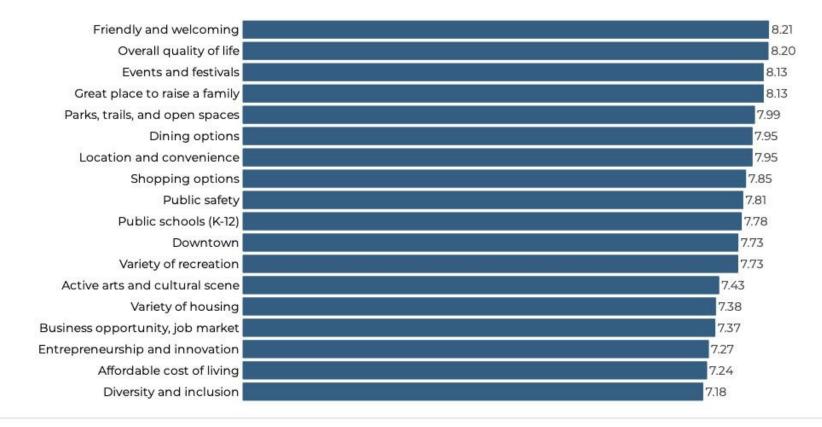
### What aspect of Sun Prairie leaves the most positive impression on visitors and newcomers?

- *"Reasonable home prices, growing job market, moderate political views, and lots of parks for outdoorsy people."*
- "Good balance between urban and farmland"
- *"It is innovative."*
- "Friendly and refreshing citizens promoting a warm and welcoming environment."
- "Great festivals and entertainment in this region"
- "It's a pretty fancy suburb with affordable housing!"
- "The people are very nice, and the schools are very good."
- "It had a clean and new look to it. There are many great stores to choose from."

### What aspect of Sun Prairie leaves the most negative impression on visitors and newcomers?

- *"It sometimes displays too much of a small town atmosphere."*
- "Increased crime and higher property taxes"
- "Roads in need of repair"
- "Unchecked growth"
- "The traffic can be overwhelming."
- "Something is constantly being built."
- "Crowds and people with strong political views"
- "Trash and dirt everywhere"
- "Too busy and crowded"

Based on your experience visiting Sun Prairie, in your opinion, please rate its following attributes on a scale of 1-10, where 1 is "Poor" and 10 is "Excellent."



#### BY VISITATION, TOP ANSWERS

CAPStudy

Based on your experience visiting Sun Prairie, in your opinion, please rate its following attributes on a scale of 1-10, where 1 is "Poor" and 10 is "Excellent."

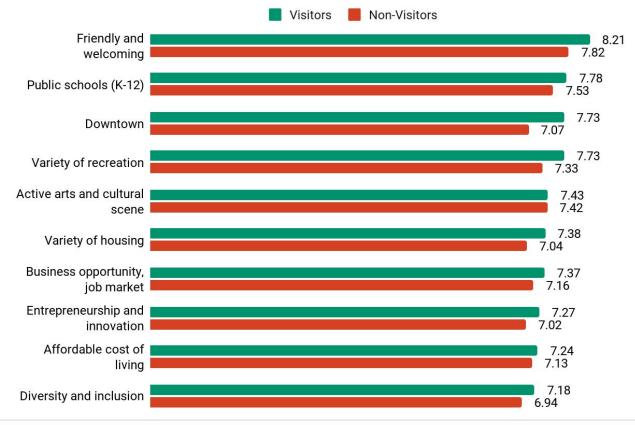


98

#### BY VISITATION, TOP ANSWERS

CAPStudy

Based on your experience visiting Sun Prairie, in your opinion, please rate its following attributes on a scale of 1-10, where 1 is "Poor" and 10 is "Excellent."



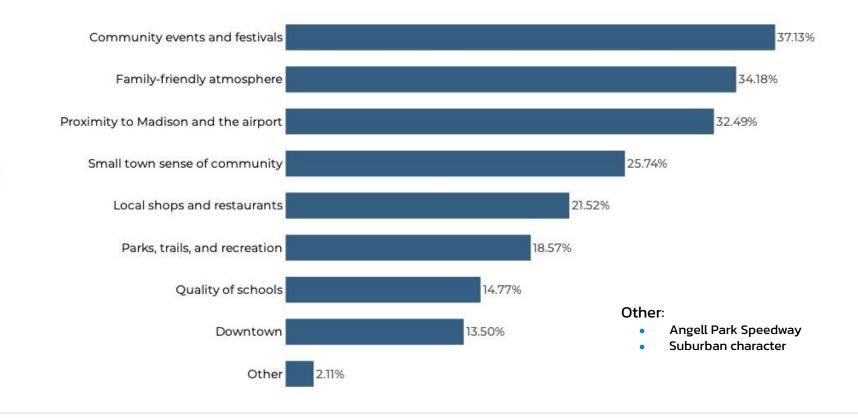
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# All Respondents





What is most important to Sun Prairie's distinct identity? (Without \_\_\_\_\_, Sun Prairie would lose its essence.) Choose two answers.



## **Competitive Positioning Review**



### Sun Prairie Logo Overview

#### **CITY + COMMUNITY PARTNER LOGOS**



























# Competitors



Competitor Logo Overview

**REGIONAL COMPETITORS** 





MIDDLETON | WI

# Stoughton Wisconsin









The job of the <u>brand</u> is to tell your most competitive story.

The job of the strategy is to determine what that story should be about.

"We are one of the cities in the area that is most open to growth."

"Sun Prairie enjoys all that Madison offers, but at the end of the day, you can come back to a small town."

"When something happens here, we have a community that really steps up and wants to help."

"You become a Sun Prairie-an just by raising your family here."

"Sun Prairie is a lot of people's first choice. People are here because they want to be."

WE HEARD LOTS OF GREAT THINGS

"For a long time, we were just a bedroom community. Then Park 151 and Prairie Lakes put us on the map."

"Sun Prairie is the sweet spot of knowing where to go and what resources are available."

"There is a lot of well-educated talent here."

"Diversity and inclusion is something we want to work on. We fully recognize and put it out there that we aren't there yet, but we're working on it."

> "People are a little envious of Sun Prairie because of the growth. There's no need to leave. Other communities come here."

WE HEARD CONCERNS

"It's getting tougher and tougher to keep the community affordable."

"We are becoming two communities. It's the west side and the rest of the city. Or the old-timers and the newcomers."

"Almost unrecognizable from 10 years ago. We are running a small city with small town mentality and small town resources."

"We follow what Big Sis does in Madison."

"People complain about issues but reject the growth that can fund and correct those issues. We resist change."

WHAT IS DISTINCT?

"Groundhog Day and Corn Fest are what we're known for."

"Sun Prairie feels like its own place. You can tell when you enter it. You can't tell in other suburbs."

"Georgia O'Keeffe was born in Sun Prairie, but you don't hear as much about it. Tourists look for quirky facts like that."

> "Madison has a reputation as a difficult place to develop, so we've tried to be better to work with."

"People like being here. They come and don't leave."

# Thank you Sun Prairie!

