

2005 Community Survey



*Perceptions among
residents regarding
their vision for the
community*



Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

The 2005 Community Survey was mailed to residents of the community of Wishek, North Dakota, and nearby areas. The survey consisted of five parts. First, respondents were presented with five factors that many people think are important in choosing a place to live, and asked to rank them in order of importance. Second, respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with several issues in their community regarding quality of life, government and economic development, and infrastructure. Third, from a list of possible problems facing the community, respondents were asked to choose the top five and rank them in order of seriousness. Fourth, respondents were asked a series of demographic questions. Finally, respondents were asked to offer comments that will positively guide community leaders as they plan Wishek's future. Several respondents also included additional comments which are included throughout the report. Places where data should be interpreted with caution are marked at the beginning of the section. The survey was sent to 695 households within the city of Wishek and nearby rural areas (those with a 58495 zip code) during the month of July 2005. A total of 99 respondents completed the survey. The survey was designed and sponsored by the Wishek Job Development Authority; staff at the North Dakota State Data Center entered the data and conducted the analysis.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- On average, respondents indicated the factor of employment opportunities is the most important when choosing a place to live, followed by whether the place is near good schools and other community services.
- Respondents are generally satisfied with quality of life issues in Wishek with the exception of cultural activities and retail shopping.
- On average, respondents are satisfied with government and economic development issues including law enforcement, the availability of local business financing/loans, and the level of local taxes. However, respondents are generally not satisfied with the vision of local leadership, economic development efforts, long range planning for the city, and the availability of quality jobs.
- Respondents are mostly satisfied with infrastructure issues, with the exception of cell phone service availability.
- Respondents indicated the biggest problems in Wishek are the availability of quality jobs, the loss of young people moving out of the community, the deterioration of the downtown district, inadequate shopping opportunities in the community, and to a lesser degree, the level of crime and drug activity.

SURVEY RESULTS

Choosing a Place to Live

Reference Table 1.

- Using a scale of five to one with five being “most important” and one being “least important,” respondents were asked to rank five factors that many people think are important when choosing a place to live.
- CAUTION should be used when interpreting these data due to problems found during the data-entry stage of the project. Several respondents did not answer the question as directed, but were included in analysis. Others skipped the question altogether. It also is possible that some respondents may have switched the scale when answering the question.
- Respondents indicated employment opportunities are most important when choosing a place to live (mean=4.21), followed by whether the area is near good schools and other community services (mean=3.42). Housing availability (mean=3.01) and the desire to be near family (mean=2.54) were next in order of importance, and climate and recreation activities (mean=2.31) were least important when choosing a place to live.
 - Seven in 10 respondents (71.9 percent) indicated **employment opportunities** are most important when choosing a place to live.
 - Nearly half of respondents (46.1 percent) said being **near good schools and other community services** is second most important when choosing a place to live.
 - Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64.1 percent) indicated **housing availability** is second or third most important when choosing a place to live.
 - Six in 10 respondents (59.5 percent) said **desire to be near family** is second to least important or least important when choosing a place to live.
 - Nearly four in 10 respondents (38.2 percent) indicated **climate and recreation activities** are least important when choosing a place to live.

Table 1. Respondents' ranking of five factors that are important in choosing a place to live

Response	Mean	Percentage of Respondents					Total*
		Most Important 5	4	3	2	Least Important 1	
Employment opportunities	4.21	71.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	11.2	99.9
Near good schools and other community services	3.42	13.5	46.1	18.0	13.5	9.0	100.1
Housing availability	3.01	7.9	28.1	36.0	13.5	14.6	100.1
Desire to be near family	2.54	14.6	13.5	12.4	30.3	29.2	100.0
Climate and recreation activities	2.31	9.0	10.1	22.5	20.2	38.2	100.0

*Total may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

N=89

Community Satisfaction

Reference Tables 2-4.

- Using a scale of one to five, with one being “very unhappy” and five being “very pleased,” respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the following issues in their community. The issues were divided into three categories: quality of life issues, government and economic development issues, and infrastructure issues.
- On average, respondents indicated they are generally pleased or satisfied with the following community issues: health care (mean=4.23), elementary and secondary education (mean=4.09), telephone service (mean=4.03), water quality (mean=3.93), major highways serving the community (mean=3.82), public access to the recreation areas (mean=3.79), cleanliness of the community (3.78), programs for senior citizens (mean=3.71), child care services (mean=3.63), recreation facilities (3.59), water and sewer service (3.58), law enforcement (mean=3.57), recreation programs for children (mean=3.56), storm drainage (mean=3.49), image of the community (mean=3.45), and local streets (mean=3.42).
- On average, respondents indicated they are somewhat satisfied with housing availability and cost (mean=3.28), availability of local business financing/loans (mean=3.28), and level of local taxes (mean=3.21).
- On average, respondents indicated they are not sure or are unsatisfied with the vision of local leadership (mean=2.77), cultural activities (mean=2.77), economic development efforts (mean=2.62), and long range planning for the city (mean=2.56).
- On average, respondents indicated they are generally unsatisfied or unhappy with retail shopping (mean=2.53) and the availability of quality jobs (mean=2.45)
- A description of the distribution of **quality of life issues** follows (Table 2).
 - Nearly six in 10 respondents (58.2 percent) said they are satisfied with the **health care** in Wishek, while an additional 35.7 percent said they are very pleased.
 - Half of respondents (51.5 percent) indicated they are satisfied with **elementary and secondary education**, while an additional one-third (33.0 percent) indicated they are very pleased.
 - Two-thirds of respondents (67.0 percent) said they are satisfied with **public access to the recreation areas**, while an additional 10.3 percent said they are very pleased. More than one in 10 (15.5 percent) said they are not sure.
 - Half of respondents (50.0 percent) said they are satisfied with the **cleanliness of the community** and one-fourth (26.5 percent) said they are very pleased. One in 10 respondents (11.2 percent) said they are not satisfied. One respondent indicated that they are not satisfied with the cleanliness of the community because some areas are very clean and neat, but other areas in Wishek are a disgrace.
 - Half of respondents (53.5 percent) said they are satisfied with **programs for senior citizens**, while an additional 12.1 percent said they are very pleased. Three in 10 respondents (29.3 percent) said they are not sure.
 - Four in 10 respondents (43.6 percent) indicated they are satisfied with **child care services**, while an additional 12.8 percent indicated they are very pleased. Nearly four in 10 respondents (38.3 percent) indicated they are not sure.

- More than half of respondents (56.7 percent) indicated they are satisfied with the **recreation facilities** in Wishek, while one-fifth (21.6 percent) indicated they are not sure. One respondent indicated they are not satisfied with the recreation facilities, stating “close in pool to be year round.”
- More than half of respondents (57.1 percent) said they are satisfied with **recreation programs for children**, while one-fifth (21.4 percent) said they are not sure. One respondent indicated they are satisfied with the recreation programs for children, however there could be more.
- Half of respondents (54.7 percent) indicated they are satisfied with the **image of the community**, while an additional 9.5 percent indicated they are very pleased. More than one-tenth of respondents indicated they are not sure (14.7 percent) or not satisfied (13.7 percent). One respondent indicated they are not satisfied with the image of the community because drugs are a major issue in this town and many people are aware of it.
- Half of respondents (54.5 percent) said they are satisfied with **housing availability and cost**, while one-fifth (22.2 percent) said they are not satisfied.
- One third of respondents (35.4 percent) indicated they are not satisfied with **cultural activities, such as art, music, and festivals**, while a similar proportion (34.4 percent) indicated they are not sure. One-fifth of respondents (22.9 percent) indicated they are satisfied.
- Nearly half of respondents (48.4 percent) said they are not satisfied with **retail shopping** and one in 10 (12.6 percent) said they are very unhappy. However, one-fifth of respondents (22.1 percent) said they are satisfied. One respondent indicated they are satisfied with the retail shopping in Wishek for a community its size.

Table 2. Respondents' satisfaction with community issues: **Quality of life issues**

Response	Mean	Percentage of Respondents					Total*
		Very Pleased 5	Satisfied 4	Not Sure 3	Not Satisfied 2	Very Unhappy 1	
Health care (N=98)	4.23	35.7	58.2	1.0	4.1	1.0	100.0
Elementary and secondary education (N=97)	4.09	33.0	51.5	10.3	2.1	3.1	100.0
Public access to the recreation areas (N=97)	3.79	10.3	67.0	15.5	6.2	1.0	100.0
Cleanliness of the community (N=98)	3.78	26.5	50.0	5.1	11.2	7.1	99.9
Programs for senior citizens (N=99)	3.71	12.1	53.5	29.3	3.0	2.0	99.9
Child care services (N=94)	3.63	12.8	43.6	38.3	4.3	1.1	100.1
Recreation facilities (N=97)	3.59	8.2	56.7	21.6	12.4	1.0	99.9
Recreation programs for children (N=98)	3.56	7.1	57.1	21.4	13.3	1.0	99.9
Image of the community (N=95)	3.45	9.5	54.7	14.7	13.7	7.4	100.0
Housing availability and cost (N=99)	3.28	3.0	54.5	15.2	22.2	5.1	100.0
Cultural activities (art, music, festivals) (N=96)	2.77	1.0	22.9	34.4	35.4	6.3	100.0
Retail shopping (N=95)	2.53	2.1	22.1	14.7	48.4	12.6	99.9

*Total may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

- A description of the distribution of **government and economic development issues** follows (Table 3).
 - Half of respondents (51.5 percent) indicated they are satisfied with **law enforcement**, while an additional 16.2 indicated they are very pleased. However, more than one in 10 indicated they are not sure (13.1 percent) or not satisfied (11.1 percent). One respondent indicated they are very unhappy with law enforcement due to the terrible drug problem with the young and adults.
 - Four in 10 respondents (44.8 percent) indicated they are satisfied with the **availability of local business financing/loans** in Wishek, while one-third (33.3 percent) indicated they are not sure. One in 10 respondents (10.4 percent) indicated they are very unhappy.
 - Four in 10 respondents (44.2 percent) indicated they are satisfied with the **level of local taxes**, while nearly three in 10 (28.4 percent) indicated they are not sure. More than one in 10 respondents (14.7 percent) indicated they are not satisfied.
 - Four in 10 respondents (43.4 percent) indicated they are unsure of their level of satisfaction with the **vision of local leadership**. One-fourth of respondents (26.3 percent) indicated they are not satisfied, while nearly one-fifth (17.2 percent) indicated they are satisfied. One in 10 (10.1 percent) indicated they are very unhappy.
 - Three in 10 respondents (30.6 percent) indicated they are unsure of their level of satisfaction with **economic development efforts**. However, nearly three in 10 respondents (28.6 percent) indicated they are not satisfied and nearly one-fifth (17.3 percent) indicated they are very unhappy. One-fifth of respondents (21.4 percent) are satisfied.
 - Half of respondents (52.0 percent) indicated they are unsure of their level of satisfaction with **long range planning for the city** of Wishek. One-fourth of respondents (26.5 percent) indicated they are not satisfied and one in 10 (13.3 percent) indicated they are very unhappy.
 - One-third of respondents (36.7 percent) said they are not satisfied with the **availability of quality jobs**, nearly three in 10 (27.6 percent) said they are not sure, and nearly one-fifth of respondents (18.4 percent) said they are very unhappy. However, more than one in 10 respondents (16.3 percent) said they are satisfied. One respondent indicated they are very unhappy with the availability of quality jobs due to the low pay.

Table 3. Respondents' satisfaction with community issues: **Government and economic development issues**

Response	Mean	Percentage of Respondents					Total*
		Very Pleased 5	Satisfied 4	Not Sure 3	Not Satisfied 2	Very Unhappy 1	
Law enforcement (N=99)	3.57	16.2	51.5	13.1	11.1	8.1	100.0
Availability of local business financing/loans (N=96)	3.28	5.2	44.8	33.3	6.3	10.4	100.0
Level of local taxes (N=95)	3.21	4.2	44.2	28.4	14.7	8.4	99.9
Vision of local leadership (N=99)	2.77	3.0	17.2	43.4	26.3	10.1	100.0
Economic development efforts (N=98)	2.62	2.0	21.4	30.6	28.6	17.3	99.9
Long range planning for city (N=98)	2.56	1.0	7.1	52.0	26.5	13.3	99.9
Availability of quality jobs (N=98)	2.45	1.0	16.3	27.6	36.7	18.4	100.0

*Total may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

- A description of the distribution of **infrastructure issues** follows (Table 4).
 - Six in 10 respondents (62.5 percent) said they are satisfied with the **telephone service** in Wishek, while one-fourth (26.0 percent) said they are very pleased. However, three respondents commented that they are unsatisfied with cell phone service in Wishek.
 - Six in 10 respondents (61.5 percent) indicated they are satisfied with the **water quality** in Wishek; one-fifth (21.9 percent) indicated they are very pleased.
 - Three-fourths of respondents (76.5 percent) indicated they are satisfied with **major highways serving the community**; an additional 7.1 percent are very pleased.
 - Six in 10 respondents (62.2 percent) said they are satisfied with **water and sewer service**. One in 10 respondents (10.2 percent) said they are very pleased, while the same proportion said they are not satisfied (10.2 percent) or not sure (10.2 percent).
 - Nearly six in 10 respondents (58.2 percent) said they are satisfied with **storm drainage**, while one-fifth (22.4 percent) said they are unsure. One respondent indicated that they are not satisfied with the storm drainage, especially on 5th street.
 - Six in 10 respondents (63.9 percent) said they are satisfied with **local streets**, while more than one in 10 (15.5 percent) are not satisfied.

Table 4. Respondents' satisfaction with community issues: **Infrastructure issues**

Response	Mean	Percentage of Respondents					Total*
		Very Pleased 5	Satisfied 4	Not Sure 3	Not Satisfied 2	Very Unhappy 1	
Telephone service (N=96)	4.03	26.0	62.5	4.2	3.1	4.2	100.0
Water quality (N=96)	3.93	21.9	61.5	7.3	6.3	3.1	100.1
Major highways serving community (N=98)	3.82	7.1	76.5	8.2	7.1	1.0	99.9
Water and sewer service (N=98)	3.58	10.2	62.2	10.2	10.2	7.1	99.9
Storm drainage (N=98)	3.49	5.1	58.2	22.4	9.2	5.1	100.0
Local streets (N=97)	3.42	4.1	63.9	9.3	15.5	7.2	100.0

*Total may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

Community Problems

Reference Tables 5-6.

- From a list of 20 possible problems facing the community, respondents were asked to choose the top five problems and rank them from one to five, with one being the “biggest problem,” two being the “second biggest problem,” etc.
- CAUTION should be used when interpreting these data due to problems found during the data-entry stage of the project. Several respondents did not answer the question as directed. For example, people chose from as few as one issue to as many as 14, while others skipped the question altogether. In addition, the scale used in this question is opposite the scale used in a previous question which may have confused respondents. Due to the difficulties respondents had completing this question, the data provided show whether a respondent chose an option, rather than its rank (Table 5).
 - At least half of respondents indicated that the availability of quality jobs (72.4 percent), the loss of young people moving out of the community (71.3 percent), the deterioration of the downtown district (59.8 percent), and inadequate shopping opportunities in the community (56.3 percent) are among the top five problems in Wishek. Of the respondents who ranked the availability of quality jobs and the loss of young people moving out of the community, the majority ranked them as the first or second biggest problem in Wishek (data not shown).
 - One respondent indicated that the availability of quality jobs with benefits is a problem, while another respondent indicated that Wishek needs to maintain the availability of quality jobs.
 - Four in 10 respondents (40.2 percent) indicated the level of crime and drug activity is one of the top five problems in Wishek, although several of these respondents circled or underlined the words drug activity, emphasizing it as the problem.
 - One respondent indicated that the level of crime and drug activity is a problem, especially drug activity among the youth.
 - Nearly one-fourth of respondents (23.0 percent) indicated the availability of quality housing is one of the top five problems in Wishek. Some respondents emphasized the word “quality” by circling or underlining it.

- More than one in 10 respondents indicated the attractiveness and cleanliness of the community (19.5 percent), the lack of developable vacant land in the city (18.4 percent), the quality of the city's infrastructure (18.4 percent), the availability of job training or retraining (17.2 percent), the availability of a range of recreational and cultural activity (16.1 percent), the level of local taxes (12.6 percent), and the cost of housing (10.3 percent) are among the top five problems in Wishek.
 - One respondent indicated that the availability of a range of recreational and cultural activity is a problem because Wishek needs a city bus.
- Less than one in 10 respondents indicated programs for senior citizens (8.0 percent), health care quality and availability (8.0 percent), the quality of local education (8.0 percent), lack of enforcement of zoning and building code regulations (6.9 percent), and the quality of drinking water (5.7 percent) are among the top five problems in Wishek.
 - One respondent indicated that the lack of enforcement of zoning and building code regulations is a problem because city workers sit on their "duff" way too much.

Table 5. Respondents who checked each problem as one of the top five problems

Problems	Percentage of Respondents*
The availability of quality jobs	72.4
The loss of young people moving out of the community	71.3
The deterioration of the downtown district	59.8
Inadequate shopping opportunities in the community	56.3
The level of crime and drug activity	40.2
The availability of quality housing	23.0
The attractiveness and cleanliness of the community	19.5
The lack of developable vacant land in the city	18.4
The quality of the city's infrastructure (water/sewer lines, streets, etc.)	18.4
The availability of job training or retraining	17.2
Availability of a range of recreational and cultural activity	16.1
The level of local taxes	12.6
The cost of housing	10.3
Programs for senior citizens	8.0
Health care quality and availability	8.0
The quality of local education	8.0
Lack of enforcement of zoning and building code regulations	6.9
The quality of drinking water	5.7
Other #1**	23.0
Other #2**	8.0

*Percentages do not total 100.0 due to multiple responses.

**See Table 6 for list of "other" problems.

N=87

- Respondents were given the option of writing in two “other” problems in Wishek. Some responses included problems with city leadership, dog and cat leash laws and contamination, problems with or lack of rental property, and problems with community clean up, old buildings, and dead trees (Table 6).

Table 6. Respondents who indicated there are “other” problems in Wishek

Other #1 (N=20)
Leadership Issues:
○ “City leadership”
○ “City not working with local businesses”
○ “Tunnel vision of leaders – turf of employees”
○ “Lack of foresight/vision of the city council”
○ “Wishek lacks a progressive leader”
Community Aesthetics:
○ “Dogs and cats run loose”
○ “Pet leash law - dogs and cats - cats contaminating our gardens, dogs crapping on our lawns”
○ “Old unused homes and other buildings that are an eyesore”
○ “So many dead trees with diseases, and so many trees that have diseases; trees hanging over the road”
○ “Used junk in backyards”
Rental Properties:
○ “No apartments with garages for rent”
○ “Rental property/housing “cleaned” up and to be kept up. Would like to see them presentable. They (houses) make the community look real bad and are an embarrassing site for the whole community. I feel there should be an ordinance for rental/housing; if there already is an ordinance, why isn’t it enforced?”
○ “Rental units - it is hard to find a decent place in Wishek to rent”
Miscellaneous:
○ “Lack of a labor force”
○ “Manure spreaders going past store”
○ “More to do for teenagers”
○ “Law officer who tells people who are his friends not to worry, he’ll never arrest them”
○ “Air conditioning in convention center; how can we draw important functions to Wishek area without proper facility?”
○ “Community pride”
○ “Spend foolish money for stop sign”
Other #2 (N=7)
“Drug activity is a big problem in this community, it is quite obvious that our law enforcement is involved with drug business; you’ll be shocked in your investigation!”
“Community volunteerism”
“Apathy of community members”
“Hunter lodges - maintenance of yards, etc.”
“Silage trucks going through town”
“Some [people] not cleaning leaves in fall”
“Zoning restricting growth”

Demographics

Reference Tables 7-12.

- Half of respondents (54.8 percent) indicated they are 55 years of age or older (Table 7).
 - CAUTION should be used when interpreting data in Table 7 because two response categories available to the respondent were not mutually exclusive (ages 36-55 and ages 55-65).

- A slight majority of respondents (53.9 percent) are female (Table 8).
- The vast majority of respondents (86.0 percent) indicated they are at least a high school graduate. One-fourth (26.9 percent) are at least a 4-year college graduate (Table 9).
- More than four in 10 respondents (45.2 percent) indicated they have lived in Wishek for more than 20 years, while nearly three in 10 (29.0 percent) said they have lived in Wishek all their lives (Table 10).
- Of the 35 people that specified their occupation, 16 responses are from people who indicated they are retired. Other responses include homemakers, farmers/ranchers, self-employed, and professionals (Table 11).
- The vast majority of respondents (85.3 percent) indicated they live in the city of Wishek, as opposed to the surrounding rural areas (Table 12).

Table 7. Respondents' age

Age in Years	Percentage of Respondents
15 or younger	0.0
16 to 21	0.0
22 to 35	7.5
36 to 55**	37.6
55 to 65**	21.5
Over 65	33.3
Total*	99.9

*Total may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

**Persons age 55 could have answered either category, a factor of how the survey was written, and thus data should be interpreted with caution.

N=93

Table 8. Respondents' gender

Gender	Percentage of Respondents
Male	46.1
Female	53.9
Total	100.0

N=89

Table 9. Respondents' level of formal education

Education Level	Percentage of Respondents
8 th grade or below	11.8
9 th grade through 11 th grade	2.2
High school graduate	25.8
Some college/technical school	24.7
Associate degree from 2-year college	8.6
College graduate (4 years)	19.4
Post-graduate college	7.5
Total	100.0

N=93

Table 10. Length of time respondents have lived in community

Length of Time in Years	Percentage of Respondents
Less than 1	1.1
1 to 5	3.2
6 to 10	9.7
11 to 20	11.8
More than 20	45.2
All my life	29.0
Total	100.0

N=93

Table 11. Respondents' occupation

Occupation	Number of Responses
Retired	16
Homemaker/housewife	5
Farmer/rancher	2
Self-employed	2
Professional	2
Dairy cow milker	1
Daycare provider	1
Mechanic	1
Middle management	1
RN/BSN	1
Sales	1
Social worker	1
Concerned citizen	1
Unemployed	1
N/A	1
Total*	37

*Some respondents provided more than one reply.

N=35

Table 12. Respondents' place of residence

Residence	Percentage of Respondents
Town/city	85.3
Rural non-farm	4.2
Rural farm	10.5
Total	100.0

N=95

Comments to Positively Guide Community Leaders as They Plan Wishek's Future

- Respondents were asked to offer other comments that will positively guide community leaders as they plan Wishek's future. The 41 responses that follow are in no specific order. Comments reference such topics as quality rentals, quality jobs, the drug problem, problems with community leadership, the importance of bringing in new businesses, downtown restoration, tearing down old buildings, and the cleanliness of the town, among others.
 1. "A nice apartment house accessible for elderly with decks and garages."
 2. "We need quality rentals/apartments."

3. "Wishek is a nice community to live. If the council keeps making people clean their yards up it will be even better. If law enforcement would get help with the local drug problem it would help too. Good jobs are a big problem in Wishek. There are a few big employers: Wishek Hospital, Wishek Nursing Home, Wishek Steel, Curt's Dairy is about all the main employment in Wishek. It is hard to find a nice rental place in Wishek. People need a nice place to rent until they can have time to buy a house in Wishek. The houses that are for sale, the owner thinks they have to have a mint for them. Unless a person is taking an executive job in Wishek, they probably can't afford to buy a house. It is widely known that Wishek has a drug problem in our young kids. With a drug problem in our school who would want to move here and raise their family?"
4. "Would like to see rental property and other vacant home owners take better care of the yard, trim trees, and paint the buildings. Also remove old cars and junk as those are all places to harbor rats and mice. Need a strict leash law for cats and dogs. The animals are ruining gardens and leaving deposits on lawns, streets need more sweeping too."
5. "Strong leading and desire to lead via the mayor/city council; proactiveness in actions outlined above; proactiveness in seeking grants to assist with costs; instead of trying to "fix up" rat infested/inappropriate places to live - especially when children are involved - the owners should be instructed to tear down or go the whole 110% to make it a quality house to live in."
6. "We need clothing and shoe stores, we need a good hardware store, we need to have dog and cat leash laws and enforce them. Apartments or condos for singles and couples with affordable rent. We have a good grocery store, bank, service stations, and churches - beautiful park, good school, nursing home; we have many good things to be proud of, plus a clinic and hospital."
7. "Downtown needs to be leveled and rebuilt. The existing buildings are no longer usable."
8. "We need more shopping opportunities, clean up our town, tear down old buildings, adult education. PLEASE, sewer lines are VERY bad, so why are we resurfacing the streets?"
9. Let's get rid of unusable old buildings on Main Street OR refurbish and reuse them. Maybe assisted living in old Herr store; Chinese restaurant in old Maggies.
10. "More restaurants, competition against grocery store, more employment for younger kids to get them occupied and away from roaming the streets looking for trouble, like a community teenage hangout to give them something to do."
11. "Need better cops, need another grocery store, need competition. In this town it's not what you are it's who you are. We have the biggest crooks running this town, us older people don't have a chance, all we have is store people with a license to steal from us older people that don't go out of town to do their shopping."
12. "Restoring landmarks like the old high school, which was such a beautiful building and would have been a perfect place for a high school reunion, but own civic leader sat on their brains. Not only those leaders when it was taken down, also those leaders at time when the school moved out."
13. "Allow community input to members of board. Currently "old boys club" hand picked for what reasons? Who brings what to the board? How do changes occur? Conflict of interest issues..."

14. "City council or members spend less money on foolish things."
15. "I believe some members of the business community are arrogant and think community members owe them a living or success. They don't do enough to "earn" business and they take their customer base for granted. I see a lot better treatment of visitors and the consigning of locals to "second-class" status. This is a serious concern and I hope it won't be ignored or brushed off as in the past."
16. [Issues with leadership - comment was withheld due to the mention of a specific name]
17. [Issues with leadership - comment was withheld due to the mention of a specific name]; "the quality of jobs, we work outside of Wishek because Wishek's wages are a sin. We commute back and forth to our jobs, wake up, the city of Wishek before long will be a branch off of Danzek. Spend money more wisely."
18. "Our leaders are slow decision makers - our leaders are "starters" and not "finishers." Our leaders are not members of local civic organizations. Interest in local improvements is lacking. Leaders are not aggressive enough to improve our city. We seem to complete survey after survey, and nothing ever happens!"
19. "Wishek needs to become a progressive community. People's suggestions often fall on deaf ears. Our leaders need to take a positive approach to the problem; often the negative overrules the positive."
20. "Use some guidance from older residents that are more experienced and are more wise, so tax dollars can be spent where more necessary; poor council representation. City should be run by business owners, not employees that don't know what it means to raise tax dollars and how to spend them. We also know times change, but there is a lot to be desired."
21. "Our development leaders in the tri-county area should pool the money and hire just one Development Coordinator."
22. "Better paying jobs for the young people; they cannot stay in this town for \$10/hour. Our young people are leaving this town."
23. "Stop looking backward - the purchase of "Marge's" building by JDA or economic development will provide jobs IF SEI ever shows up, where as rebuilding the old city hall will do nothing but waste tax payers money."
24. "Would be nice to see some kind of manufacturing of some sort so we could keep and attract some young people here."
25. "If we want young people to stay or return after college we need jobs that are of good quality and pay; to do this we need to offer to new business tax relief, financial assistance and opportunities to grow their business as Wishek grows with them."
26. "Leaders should be more active in working to improve our state highway in the area as well as working harder to get E.D. into community to help create local better paying jobs for our working people."
27. "Would like to see surveys bring results - where are the jobs that bring people to community? When is SEI coming? How many people will be employed? Is that the only economic development we can plan to see in Wishek? To stay on map Wishek will need other ventures; present business owners must be willing to accept new business even if higher wages are a factor."

28. "Get someone in to get jobs."
29. "Keeping our city clean; offering jobs to keep our young people here in Wishek."
30. "Chip/sealing our streets would seal the cracks and give the whole street a "new" layer. As far as my opinion on the sealing cracks issue: crack sealing is to be done in early spring, when the cracks are "open" so the tar gets into the crack. They are sealing the streets when the cracks are "closed" and are just wasting tax dollars. This is a FACT. If you doubt my fact, call the DOT. All the cracks aren't even being done. There (I feel) is not enough skill in the city labor department. As far as the local streets: I am very disappointed in the maintenance of our city streets. The city was offered (to buy - city workers can do work by themselves) a chip/seal machine from McIntosh County and did not buy it. Does anyone realize how much money that machine would save the city and also on assessments to the tax payers? I came from a small town before moving to Wishek and they had a chip/sealer machine, they NEVER hired out their street work, unless it was to be paved. If the streets were kept-up better, I don't believe we'd have to pave for many years yet. Where the streets have been dug up (sewer repair) those spots should be cemented, not with pavement material."
31. "Not sure what the answers to our problems are. More aggressive law enforcement? Maybe. More and better paying jobs? You're trying to do that already. The city is trying to do something about our streets/sewers/etc., but I get the impression they're not willing to listen to what townspeople have to say. I hope that doesn't backfire on us taxpayers. Hopefully, something can be done to clean up and beautify the downtown district."
32. "I think we need to look at what we have and to make current businesses successful versus always bringing in new things. I believe we, as citizens, better wake up to the drug scene in our school and young people. Do we want our young children seeing that? Find a way to get the "lazy" people off of welfare, we could all be president if we could do that!"
33. "Wishek has a hospital and excellent home for the aged, they could be promoted and used in attracting people ready for retirement or as a summer home for people from the south, such as Arizona. Wishek also has an excellent facility for hosting large gatherings in the civic center. If Wishek had a more progressive city council, they would update the wiring and install an air conditioning system in the Civic Center, and present it as a great facility to host meetings/conventions/etc., year round."
34. "It would definitely be an asset to our community to have a comfortable air-conditioned civic center in which to have community events. Please reconsider this project. Do we really need a community billboard costing thousands?"
35. "Cars parking on wrong side of street, pulling out in front of you without looking."
36. "Survey similar to this for Tri-County Fair; clean city-owned and private-owned empty lots - not target one person - near city limits - old cars driving into town - looks terrible."
37. "Recently, as I walk along I find places where I need to step carefully to avoid stepping in doggie do, both on the street and on sidewalks. Therefore leash laws and cleanup rules should be enforced; the recent enforcement of yard clean-up has made a nice improvement, certain yards no longer look like junk yards."
38. "The cleanliness of the town is very important. In Wishek there are too many big trees that have diseases; some are half dead and half alive, and there's a lot of trees that hang out too far over the streets."

39. "Get rid of some of the larger trees that break up the sidewalks and street; clean up junk, cars racing down the streets, loud music after 11:00."
40. "Newcomers do not feel welcomed by closed-minded old-timers!"
41. "We need a city bus for out of town cultural activities. Many seniors would use it!!! We need transportation to casinos, Hostfest, Medora, Branson, etc."

COMMUNITY SURVEY
WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY?

1. Listed below are five factors that many people think are important in choosing a place to live. How do they rank in importance to you? Place a “5” by the most important, a “4” by the second most important, a “3” by the third most important, a “2” by the fourth most important, and a “1” by the least important.

- () Employment opportunities
- () Desire to be near family
- () Near good schools and other community services
- () Climate and recreation activities
- () Housing availability

2. Please circle how satisfied you are with the following in your community:

ISSUE	Very Pleased	Satisfied	Not Sure	Not Satisfied	Very Unhappy
a. Elementary and secondary education	5	4	3	2	1
b. Programs for senior citizens	5	4	3	2	1
c. Cultural activities (art, music, festivals)	5	4	3	2	1
d. Health care	5	4	3	2	1
e. Child care services	5	4	3	2	1
f. Recreation programs for children	5	4	3	2	1
g. Recreation facilities	5	4	3	2	1
h. Public access to the recreation areas	5	4	3	2	1
i. Vision of local leadership	5	4	3	2	1
j. Long range planning for city	5	4	3	2	1
k. Housing availability and cost	5	4	3	2	1
l. Economic development efforts	5	4	3	2	1
m. Local streets	5	4	3	2	1
n. Major highways serving the community	5	4	3	2	1
o. Water and sewer service	5	4	3	2	1
p. Water quality	5	4	3	2	1
q. Storm drainage	5	4	3	2	1
r. Law enforcement	5	4	3	2	1
s. Telephone service	5	4	3	2	1
t. Level of local taxes	5	4	3	2	1
u. Availability of quality jobs	5	4	3	2	1
v. Availability of local business financing/loans	5	4	3	2	1
w. Retail shopping	5	4	3	2	1
x. Image of the community	5	4	3	2	1
y. Cleanliness of the community	5	4	3	2	1

3. What would you say are the top five (5) problems facing our community today that you would like local leaders to do something about? Place a "1" the issue you consider to be the biggest problem, "2" by the second biggest problem, etc.

- The quality of local education
- The availability of quality jobs
- The availability of job training or retraining
- The loss of young people moving out of the community
- Programs for senior citizens
- Health care quality and availability
- Availability of a range of recreational and cultural activity
- The quality of drinking water
- The attractiveness and cleanliness of the community
- The level of crime and drug activity
- The availability of quality housing
- The cost of housing
- The level of local taxes
- The lack of developable vacant land in the city
- Lack of enforcement of zoning and building code regulations
- Inadequate shopping opportunities in the community
- The deterioration of the downtown district
- The quality of the city's infrastructure (water/sewer lines, streets, etc.)
- Other (describe) _____
- Other (describe) _____

4. How old are you?

- 15 years or younger
- 16 to 21 years
- 22 to 35 years
- 36 to 55 years
- 55 to 65 years
- over 65 years

5. What is your sex? Male Female

6. What is your level of formal education?

- 8th grade or below
- 9th grade thru 11th grade
- High school grade
- Some college/technical school
- Associate degree from 2-year college
- College graduate (4 years)
- Post-graduate college

7. How long have you lived in the community?

- Less than one year
- One to five years
- Six to ten years
- Eleven to twenty years
- More than twenty years
- All my life

8. What is your occupation? (optional) _____

9. Is your residence? (Please complete one only)

TOWN/CITY RURAL NON-FARM RURAL FARM

Please offer other comments that will positively guide community leaders as they plan Wishek's future: _____
