



# PARKS, LAND USE, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

What would make Red Wing a better place to live?

# 1,127

responses across all community engagement events and surveys mentioned aspects of parks, recreation, and land use that would improve Red Wing. The top responses are shown to the right.



## Recreational Activities and Facilities

While 93% of survey respondents believe the current mix of recreational facilities meets their needs, 198 people said additional recreational activities and facilities would make Red Wing a better place to live. A youth/senior/community center is also desired, along with:

- » More dog-friendly parks and trails
- » A splash pad and a beach
- » Adult sports leagues and other evening programming



## Sidewalk and Trail Improvements

161 people mentioned sidewalk and trail improvements as meaningful investments that would improve life in Red Wing. Comments included ideas for specific trail connections, suggestions for trail repair, and expansion of riverside trails.



## Various Park Improvements

136 respondents suggested specific improvements to Red Wing's parks and recreation system, including:

- » Restore native plant communities
- » Improve handicap accessibility
- » Improve restrooms
- » Update playgrounds
- » Open and maintain ice rinks
- » Improve athletic fields
- » Complete river's edge improvements and boat access

# What do folks like most about living in Red Wing?

401

Scenic and Natural Setting

323

Park and Open Space System

241

Access to the Mississippi River

163

Biking and Hiking Trails

156

Outdoor Activities and Events



## Study Parks and Open Space Needs

Across all surveys, 69 responses referenced the desire for additional parks and open spaces throughout the community. Several people from the North Service Drive/ Prairie Island area want a neighborhood park. Others are interested in having places to be able to camp. The idea of an “indoor park” space for families to use in the winter was mentioned by more than 10 people. While 58 respondents to the Community Survey believe there are “too many” parks in Red Wing, 97% of respondents support the City’s efforts to preserve open space.



## Address Population Growth

Population growth was listed as the “most serious issue facing Red Wing today” by 55 respondents to the 2017 Community Survey. Another 9 people responded that limiting growth would improve the community. However, 82 respondents believe population growth has been too slow between 2000 and 2015. Regardless of people’s perceptions, even Red Wing’s modest growth over that time period (330 people) merits a review of how well the built environment is ready to accommodate a changing population.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY SNAPSHOT

### HE MNI CAN | BARN BLUFF

The 2017 Community Survey asked residents about the tradition of painting He Mni Can | Barn Bluff. A slim majority feel it should never be allowed:

198

People feel that painting should NEVER be allowed

91

People feel that painting should be allowed without restrictions

71

People feel that painting should be allowed with some restrictions

### Restrictions like:

No offensive language

Educational

No gang signs

Historically significant

No hate speech

Size limits

Only patriotic

No political statements

He Mni Can (Hill Water Wood) is a sacred site for the Dakota people, central to their creation story. While it is now a public park, the land has a personal significance to many Native residents.