THE ECONOMY

What would make Red Wing a better place to live?

1,865

responses across all community engagement events and surveys mentioned aspects of Red Wing's economy they'd like to see improved.

Suggested Businesses

585 survey responses suggested bringing additional business to Red Wing. Many respondents are disappointed in empty storefronts downtown and hope for a greater variety of restaurants, more outdoor dining, restaurants along the river, businesses that stay open into the evening, and additional retail options including a new women's clothing store. There is some call for additional big-box retail like Kohl's or Super Target, but most comments focused on revitalizing businesses downtown.

Population Growth

When asked whether population growth in Red Wing has been too slow, too fast, or about right, 345 respondents to the Community Survey (21%) replied growth is "too slow." Red Wing's population has grown rather modestly between 2000-2015, gaining 330 residents to bring the town total to 16,445. 11% of survey respondents (156 people) believe the town is growing too fast.

Expanded Farmers' Market and Food Options

150 residents responded they are disappointed with the grocery shopping options available in Red Wing and want more variety. Seasonal food options like the farmers' market are very popular , and respondents indicated they should be expanded.

What do folks like most about living in Red Wing?

168 Strong & Vibrant Business Community

110 Jobs and Low Cost of Living

82 Community Amenities (pool, YMCA, etc.)

65 Historic Downtown

21 Small-Town Feel

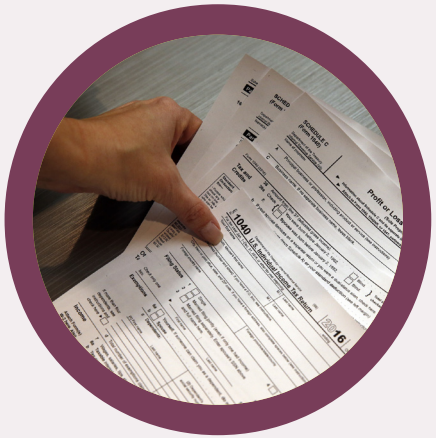
8 Natural Setting

Living Wage Jobs and Workforce Readiness

Red Wing needs to encourage businesses and industry to come to Red Wing, adding employment opportunities and providing living wage jobs for residents, according to 134 public engagement comments. Apprenticeship, training opportunities, and post-secondary education were also mentioned as keys to workforce success.

Services, Amenities, and Events

98 survey responses suggested additional services, amenities, and events. Many responents wish there were more affordable activities for youth and families. People also want more entertainment options and things to do in the evenings. Activities and gathering places along the riverfront were also a popular suggestion.



Lower Taxes

92 survey respondents would prefer paying lower taxes at the local level.

Affordable Childcare

A lack of qualified, affordable childcare was listed as an issue for 91 survey respondents. Providing more reasonably priced childcare options helps both spouses participate in the work force if they choose, and it provides support for low-income working parents to pursue higher education.