



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall at 540 West Hills Circle
Roll Call: Meier, Springer-Gasner, Rooks, Eickhoff,
Wilson, Peake, Effertz

1. Planning Commission Agenda

1.a. Planning Commission Agenda - November 12, 2025

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

3.a. Planning Commission Minutes - August 26, 2025

4. Public Hearings

4.a. Rooks Addition Preliminary & Final Plat

5. Downtown Parking Committee Requests

5.a. None

6. Other Business

6.a. Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Process Update

6.b. Building Permit Updates

6.c. Updates on Previous Items

7. Next Meeting - December 9, 2025

8. Adjournment

Owatonna Planning Commission Agenda

WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2025

5:30 PM

****Charles S. Crandall Center at West Hills****

Roll Call: Springer-Gasner, Rooks, Eickhoff, Wilson, Peake, Effertz, Joachim

1. Approve minutes of the August 26, 2025 meeting

2. Public Hearings

A) Rooks Addition Preliminary & Final Plat

3. Downtown Parking Committee Requests

None

4. Other Business

A. Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Process Update

B. Building Permit Updates

C. Updates on Previous Items

5. Next Meeting – December 9, 2025

6. Adjourn

OWATONNA PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES FOR AUGUST 26, 2025

The Owatonna Planning Commission met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the Crandall Center – Chambers with Chairperson Kelly Rooks conducting the meeting. Present at roll call were Commissioners Rachel Spring-Gasner, Kelly Rooks, John Eickhoff, Mark Wilson, Nick Peake, Dave Effertz, and Jim Joachim. Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke, Planning Specialist Emma Bransford, and Senior Administrative Technician Kristen Kopp were also present.

A motion was made by Eickhoff and seconded by Joachim to approve the minutes of regular meeting of July 22, 2025. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

CUP-22, a request by John Schulte of Jones Haugh & Smith and Robert Seykora of Rocon on behalf of Larry Schultz of LSO Farms for a conditional use permit to construct an accessory warehouse building on the subject property located at 3510 Park Drive NW, was presented by Planning Specialist Emma Bransford. (Refer to report on file.) The public hearing opened at 5:33 pm. John Schulte was present representing Larry Schultz and Bob Seykora. He said they are working on the final location of the ADA stalls and route. Public hearing closed at 5:35 pm. Joachim asked if this is intended to be used as storage by Larry Schultz. Bransford said that is correct. A motion was made by Effertz and seconded by Wilson to recommend City Council approval of CUP-22, a request to construct an accessory warehouse building on the subject property located at 3510 Park Drive NW with the following conditions:

- 1) The accessory warehouse shall be used solely for purposes as allowed in accordance with applicable zoning and building code regulations.
- 2) Photometrics plans to be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of a building permit.
- 3) Landscaping plan to be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of a building permit including two trees along Park Drive to meet code requirements.
- 4) All items in the City Engineer's Memo dated August 12, 2025, must be adhered to.

All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

Preliminary and Final Plat of Culligan Addition, which is a 1.08± acre tract of land zoned B-3, Central Business District, requested by John Schulte V, Jones Haugh & Smith, owned by Culligan Ultrapure, and located at 110 Fremont Street W was presented by Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke. (Refer to report on file.) Public hearing opened at 5:38 pm. Randy Balauskys, who owns the duplexes to the west side of the plat (513 Oak Avenue North), said that he has some concerns about the proposed warehouse. He said he wants to know how this rezoning will affect his properties and wondered if the entire block is being rezoned. He said it could create inconsistencies. He asked if the City upgrades utilities or drainage systems, will they, as owners, be assessed for the cost. He asked about future charges and whether this will trigger increased utility fees. He requested a breakdown of costs if that occurs. He asked about setbacks and said that it could affect the privacy and aesthetics of his property. He would like a clarification on the type of building it will be. He said he is concerned about water runoff, asked if there was a stormwater management plan, and said that he would like a copy of it. Another concern is property damage during construction and he said he would like a preconstruction survey. He said he was concerned about his retaining wall. He wanted to know what will be stored in the building, why this location was chosen, and where this operation was previously located. He said he would like to see a traffic impact study and wondered what type of vehicles would be in and out. He would like a copy of their operation hours and noise mitigation strategies. He said he would like to protect the quality of life as it would impact the privacy and noise of the area. He said he would like to know the impact to his rental license. He said that the luxury

apartments down the street are already impacting his rental fees. He said he would also like a full site plan and an environmental impact study. He submitted a formal letter of objection to the project. (Refer to letter on file.) Sallie Newbowers, 136 Fremont Street West, said will affect both the east and the north side of her property. She said that it doesn't look like they did anything with her property in the survey but the retaining wall on the west side of the future warehouse goes the full way from Front Street to Fremont Street. She said that her house and driveway does not show on the survey. She said she doesn't know how this will affect their house and wondered if they would expect them to take anything down so that they can have an egress. When they took down the house on the property where they plan to build the warehouse, they just buried it. When they go to level it, how much will they have to level it and what will they find? Public hearing closed at 5:48 pm. Kruschke said that the request before us is a plat of the property and not for the building, though it is shown on this plat. He recommended the neighbors talk to the property owner. He said this request is just formalizing the boundaries of the property. As far as any variances with the boundaries, those come from the survey and have to match. The first step to any future building was combining these lots. At this time we are formalizing boundaries. Utility and access issues will be reviewed at the time of the building permit. There are no rezoning requests at this time, so anything that happens in this district has to be permitted in a B-3, Central Business District. Eickhoff said that the boundaries were concerning and asked if there was any way to bring that to the City Attorney. Kruschke said that they can certainly have that conversation. The boundary comes from the title work that has been purchased by the owner over time. We don't deal with that a lot, but do see those situations come up. Any challenges to the title are above us and go through real estate court. Eickhoff said that the concerns are legitimate but we are just addressing the boundaries. A motion was made by Eickhoff and seconded by Effertz to recommend City Council approval of the preliminary and final plat of Culligan Addition with the following conditions:

- 1) The final plat shall be recorded within 60 days of the approval.
- 2) The title opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the final plat.

All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke gave an update on the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Process. He said that there is a meeting at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 9 with City Council and the consultant. There are no public hearings, though.

Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke gave an update on previous items. He noted that Building Permit reports are back. He said that the requests on Mineral Springs Estates should be approved at the next City Council meeting on September 2.

A motion was made by Joachim and seconded by Springer-Gasner to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Kruschke
Community Development Manager

November 5, 2025

To: Planning Commission
From: Community Development Department
RE: Preliminary and Final Rooks Addition

Application Review:

Applicant: Scott Tuchtenhagen, Jones Haugh & Smith
Owner: Donald and Kelly Rooks
Location of Property: 1790 3rd Ave NW
Existing Zoning: R-1, Single-Family Residential District
Existing Land Use: The land is currently single family residential.
Report Attachments:

1. Location Map
2. Preliminary Plat
3. Final Plat
4. Project Narrative

Proposed Development:

Size of Subdivision: 1.5± acres
Number of Lots: Three residential lots being platted into one
Lot Configuration: The lot is generally rectangular in shape.
Street Pattern: The street pattern will not change from what exists today.
Services: Services are existing.
Timing/Financing of Development: The applicant is hoping to record the final plat before the end of the year.
Outstanding Assessments: None
Floodplain: The 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain extends into the southern portion of the property adjacent to the residential structure. No portion of the floodplain overlaps with existing or future development.
Wetlands: None

Storm Water Drainage:	No changes proposed.
Easements:	Existing easements on the northern, southern, and western portions of the property will remain. No new easements are being proposed at this time.
County/MNDOT Review:	The property is not adjacent to a state or county road.

Background

Scott Tuchtenhagen, Jones, Haugh, and Smith, on behalf of Donald and Kelly Rooks, a request for preliminary and final plat of Rooks Addition, a 1.5± acre tract of residential land. The applicant is requesting the plat to combine lots from two different plats into one platted lot in order to construct an accessory building. The accessory structure shown needs a Conditional Use Permit as well as a public hearing.

Two unused service connections are stubbed within the project area. All unused services must either be disconnected at the main or enter into service disconnection agreement. Staff recommends that the owner enter into such agreement for this project.

Staff Review:

Staff recommends approval of the preliminary and final plat of Rooks Addition with the following conditions:

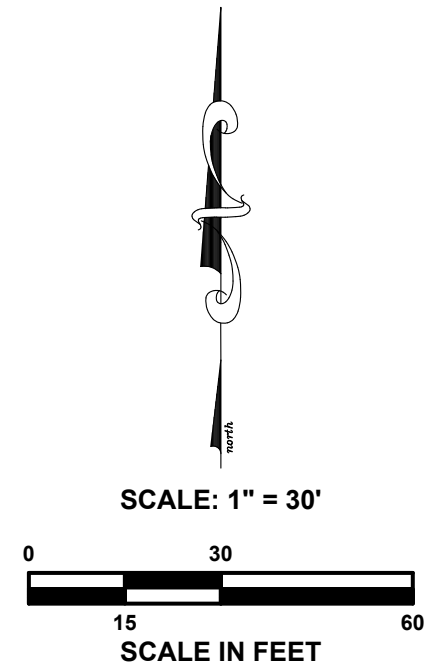
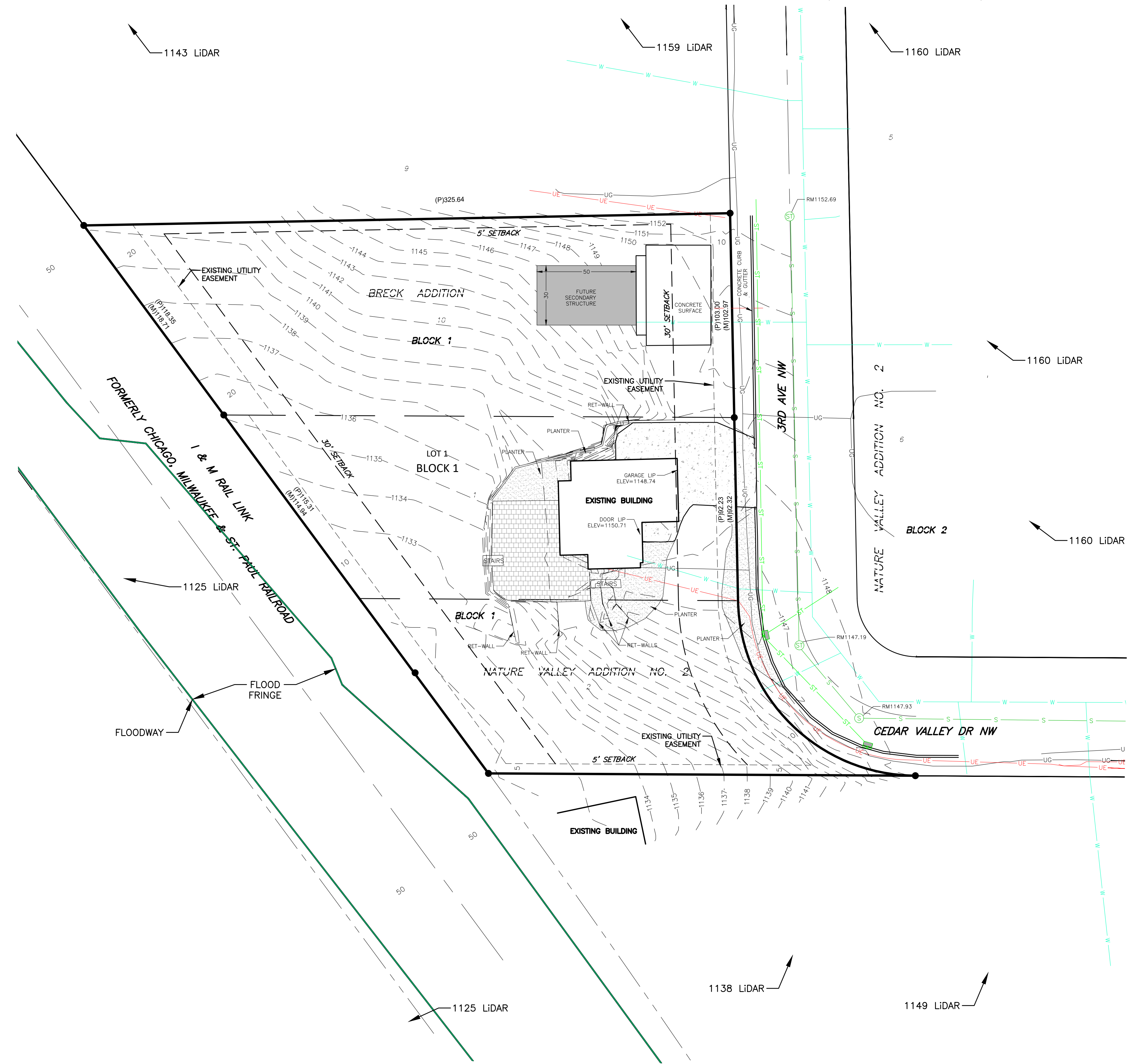
- 1) The final plat shall be recorded 60 days of approval.
- 2) The title opinion shall be approved by the City Attorney prior to recording of the final plat.
- 3) The owner shall enter into a Service Disconnection Agreement regarding any unused services.
- 4) The owner's mortgage lender must provide a consent to plat.



Rooks Addition
1790 3rd Ave NW

PRELIMINARY PLAT OF ROOKS ADDITION

PART OF BRECK ADDITION AND NATURE VALLEY ADDITION NO. 2
OWATONNA, STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA



AREA
Gross Area = 1.50 ACRES±

- LEGEND**
- = 5/8 inch X 16 inch iron monument (capped RLS 52646)-Placed
 - = Iron monument-Found
 - W — = Water Main
 - S — = Sanitary Sewer
 - ST — = Storm Sewer
 - G — = Gas Main
 - FO — = Fiber-Optics
 - UE — = Underground Electric
 - OE — = Overhead Electric
 - ⊕ = Hand Hole
 - ⊞ = Electric Box
 - ⊞ = Telephone Pedestal
 - ⊞ = Catch Basin
 - ⊞ = Manholes & Manhole
 - 1272 — = Elevation Contour Line
 - ▨ = Concrete Surface
 - ▨ = Pavers
 - ▨ = Planters

OWNER INFORMATION

Kelly J. Rooks & Donald E. Rooks III
1790 3RD AVENUE NW
OWATONNA, MN 55060

LAND SURVEYOR

JONES HAUGH, & SMITH, INC.
SCOTT A. TUCHTENHAGEN
415 WEST NORTH STREET
OWATONNA, MN 55060
507-451-4598
SCOTT@JHSENG.COM

ZONING

EXISTING ZONE: R-1 COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

SETBACKS:

ZONE: 30'
REAR: 20'
SIDE: 10'

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 10, Block 1, Breck Addition, as the same is platted and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

AND

Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Nature Valley Addition No. 2, as the same is platted and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota

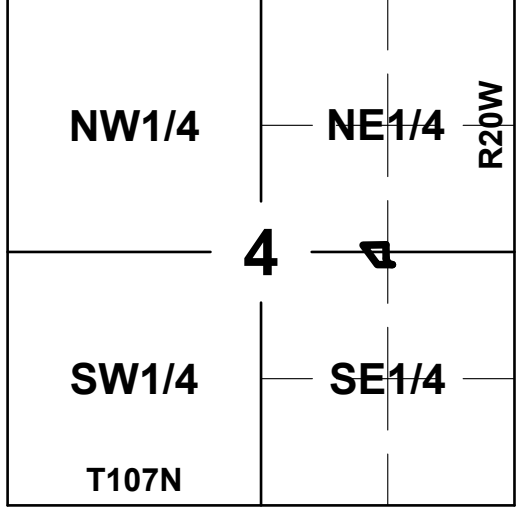
UTILITIES NOTE:

SANITARY, WATER MAIN, NATURAL GAS, AND ELECTRIC FACILITIES SHOWN PER OPU, OWATONNA ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DIGITAL RECORDS, AND GOPHER STATE ONE CALL.

PROJECT NOTE:

PLATTING REQUESTED FOR COMBINATION OF LOTS PLATTED PER BRECK ADDITION AND NATURE VALLEY ADDITION NO. 2.

VICINITY MAP

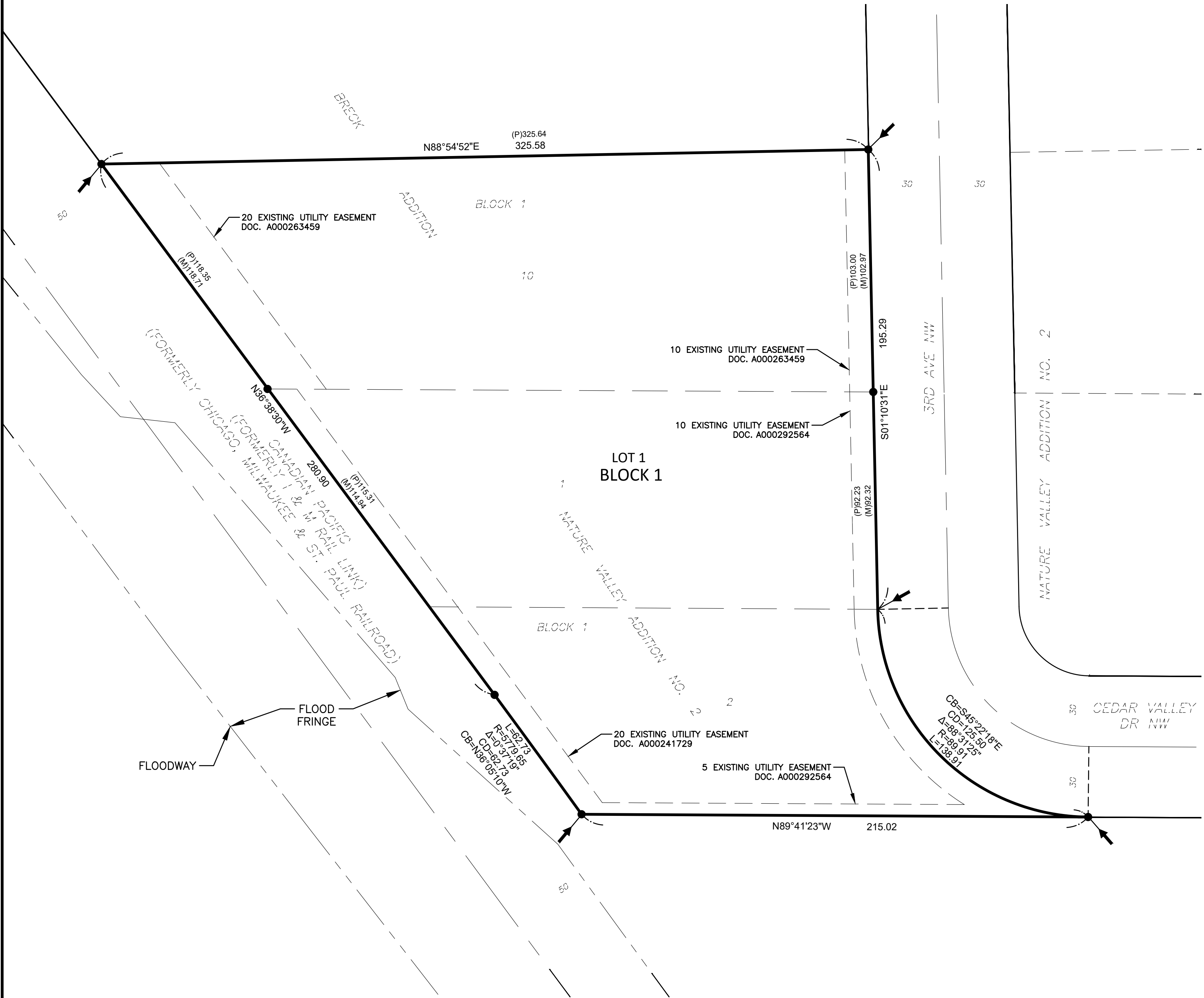


Scale: 1"=2000'

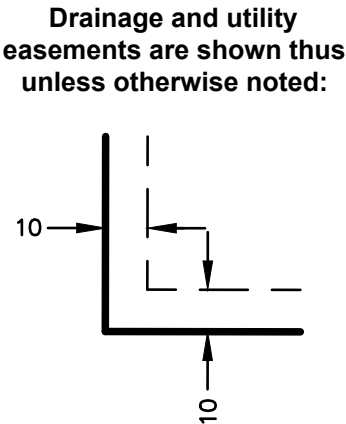
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REVISED 10/30/2025

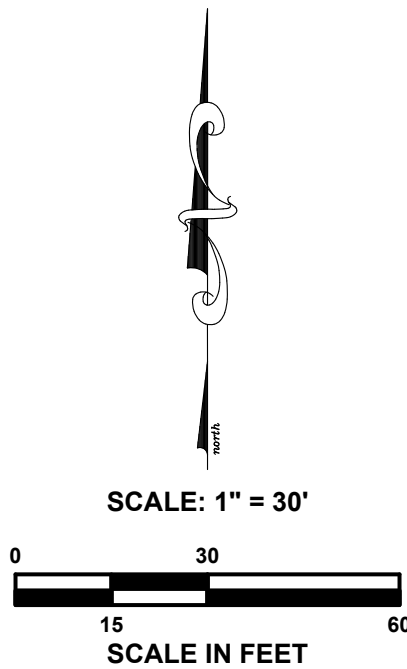
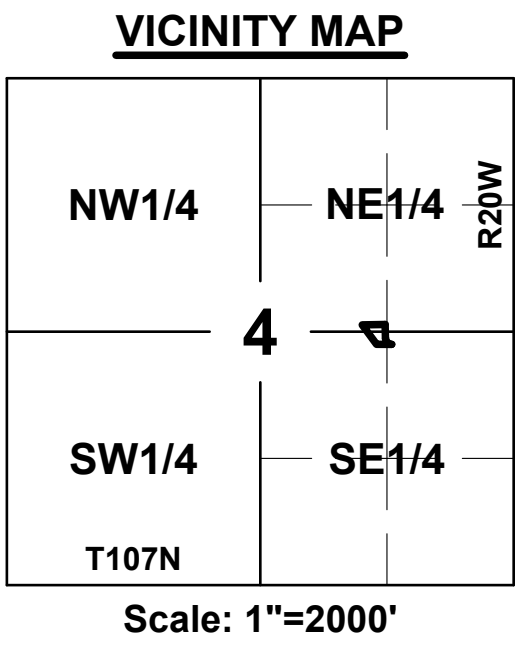
ROOKS ADDITION



- LEGEND**
- = Iron Monument-Found
 - = 5/8" X 16 inch iron monument (capped LS 52646)-Placed unless otherwise noted
 - ➔ = Addition Corner



BASIS OF BEARING SYSTEM
All bearings are based on the east line of Block 1 Breck Addition bearing South 01° 10' 31" East



KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That Donald Eugene Rooks III and Kelly Jo Rooks, husband and wife, owners of the following described property:

Lot 10, Block 1, BRECK ADDITION, Steele County, Minnesota

AND

Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, NATURE VALLEY ADDITION NO. 2, Steele County, Minnesota

has caused the same to be surveyed and platted as ROOKS ADDITION, and do hereby dedicate to the public for public use the drainage and utility easements as created herewith.

In witness whereof said Donald Eugene Rooks III and Kelly Jo Rooks, husband and wife, have hereunto set their hands this

_____ day of _____, 2025.

Donald Eugene Rooks III _____ Kelly Jo Rooks _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

This instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 2025 by Donald Eguene Rooks III, and Kelly Jo Rooks.

John Henry Schulte, Notary Public, State of Minnesota
My Commission Expires January 31, 2026

I, Scott A. Tuchtenhagen, hereby certify that this plat was prepared by me or under my direct supervision; that I am a duly Licensed Land Surveyor in the State of Minnesota; that this plat is a true and correct representation of the boundary survey; that all mathematical data and labels are correctly designated on this plat; that all monuments depicted on this plat have been, or will be set within one year; that all water boundaries and wet lands, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.01, Subd. 3, as of the date of this certificate are shown and labeled on this plat; and all public ways are shown and labeled on this plat.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Scott A. Tuchtenhagen, Licensed Land Surveyor
Minnesota License No. 52646

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

This instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 2025 by Scott A. Tuchtenhagen, a licensed land surveyor.

John Henry Schulte, Notary Public, State of Minnesota
My Commission Expires January 31, 2026

This plat of ROOKS ADDITION was approved and accepted by the City Council of the City of Owatonna, Minnesota at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____, 2025, and said plat is in compliance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.03 Subd. 2.

Jenna A. Tuma, City Administrator

I hereby certify that in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.021, Subd. 11, this plat has been reviewed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Scott A. Tuchtenhagen, County Surveyor
Steele County, Minnesota

No delinquent taxes and transfer entered this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Jennifer Mueller, Property Tax and Elections Director
Steele County, Minnesota

I hereby certify that taxes payable for the year 2025 on the land hereinbefore described have been paid this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Steele County, Minnesota

Filed in the Office of the County Recorder this _____ day of _____, 2025, at _____ O'clock _____ M., in Book _____ of Plats,

Page _____, as Document Number _____

Rick G. Kvien, County Recorder
Steele County, Minnesota



JONES, HAUGH & SMITH
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

ROOKS ADDITION final and preliminary plat in the City of Owatonna

Donald and Kelly Rooks are combining three properties into one. The subject properties are Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, NATURE VALLEY ADDITION NO. 2 AND Lot 10, Block 1, BRECK ADDITION, Steele County, Minnesota. The city ordinance requires a new plat to combine the lots that are not currently in the same plat. There is a future plan to add a secondary structure to the property as shown on the preliminary plat.

OWNER

Donald and Kelly Rooks

1790 NW 3rd Ave

OWATONNA MN 55060

507-271-1797

To: Owatonna Planning Commission, via Greg Kruschke, AICP
City of Owatonna, Community Development Manager
From: Mojra Hauenstein, Senior Planner, AICP, LEED ND, NCARB

Date: November 7, 2025

Memo: Zoning & Subdivision Update – Meeting Overview and Attachments

Overview:

At the November 12 Planning Commission meeting, we will review key feedback from Workshop #1, discuss results from the public survey, demo the INPUTiD engagement platform, and outline progress and next steps in the zoning and subdivision update process.

Topics We'll Cover:

- **Workshop #1 Feedback:**
Includes recommendations to simplify residential zoning, allow detached ADUs, clarify accessory structure definitions, and explore development fees and enforcement tools.
- **Public Survey Results (Oct 1–Nov 3):**
 - **404 responses** with statistically valid representation.
 - Strong support for detached ADUs, mixed-use downtown development, and aesthetic regulation of shipping containers.
 - Mixed views on lot size reductions, accessory building limits, and street widths.
 - Comments emphasized walkability, affordability, and context-sensitive code updates.
- **Next Steps:**
 - INPUTiD platform open through January 2026.
 - In-person Workshop #2 scheduled for December 9 at 5:30 PM, with focus groups held the same day.

Attachments:

- **PowerPoint Presentation**
- **Survey Results Summary**



Owatonna Zoning and Subdivision Update

Virtual Meeting with Planning Commission
Nov 12, 2025



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Today's Topics

- Summary of feedback from workshop #1
- Survey results
- Showcase INPUTiD (live)
- Progress so far
- Next Steps- workshop #2

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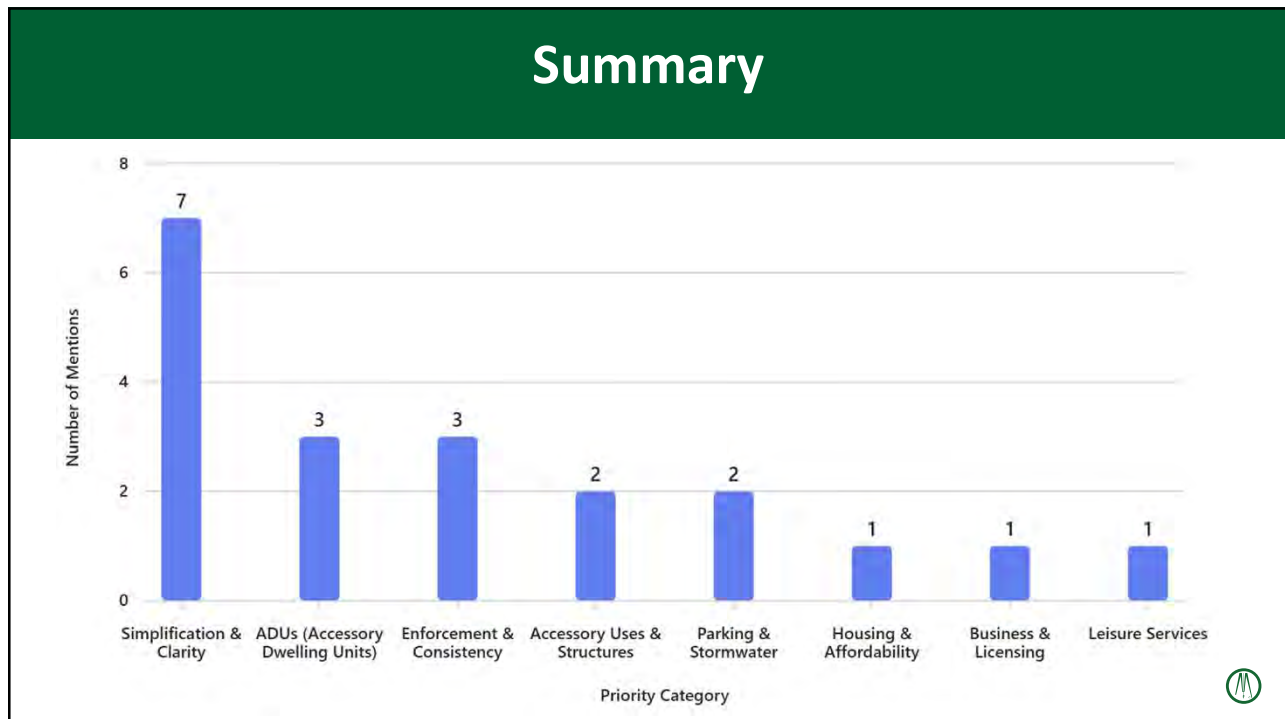


Feedback from Workshop #1 9-9-25


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Summary

Top Priorities

Flexibility and simplification

Accessory Uses & Structures

Expanding ADU opportunities

Use Tables & Zoning

Improving tables, making easier to use

Subdivision & Infrastructure

Addressing subdivisions, connectivity standards

Districts & Legislative Updates

Consolidating districts addressing state law

Zoning & Districts
Simplify residential zones
Support by-right mixed-use
Reduce lot sizes (R-1 → 5,000 sf)

Use Tables & Compliance
Group homes (7–16) = conditional in multifamily

ADUs
Allow detached in R zones

Accessory Structures
Define pergolas, gazebos, garage vs accessory
Remove arbitrary limits
Align with fire/building codes

Unregulated Items
Allow containers if visually compatible

Enforcement
Strengthen tools/process

Subdivision Standards
Require sidewalks; exempt cul-de-sacs, low-volume roads

Street Design
Regulate lane/parking widths
Support narrower streets
Keep wide intersections
Odd/even parking works well

Development Fees
Explore sewer/traffic fees
Support increases w/data
Ensure regional competitiveness

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Public Survey results

Oct 1st to Nov. 3, 2025



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Survey Validity

Total Respondents: 404
Questions: 20 questions

Survey Standards Reference:

- American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- Statistically valid and representative sample of the community

Age Distribution
19 and under: 0%
20–24: 3.03%
25–34: 12.42%
35–44: 27.88%
45–54: 24.85%
55–64: 15.76%
65–74: 11.21%
75–84: 4.24%
85+: 0.61%

• **Live in Owatonna:** 92.15%
 • **Work in Owatonna:** 51.36%
 • **Own business in Owatonna:** 15.41%
 • **Other (please specify):** 3.63%

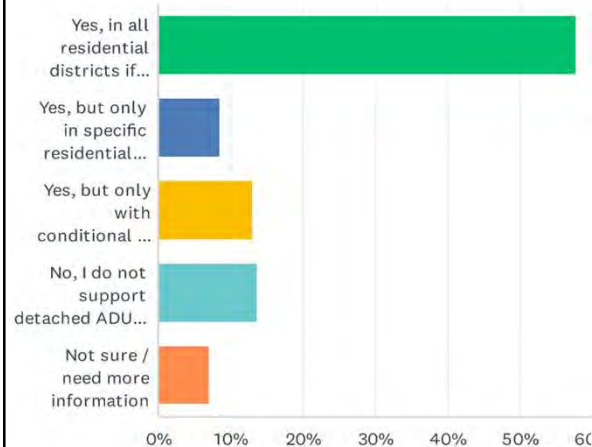
Most respondents are residents, with about 50% working locally and a smaller share owning businesses. The largest age groups: **35–44 (28%)** and **45–54 (25%)**, indicating strong representation from mid-career adults.

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Survey Clear Consensus (>50%)

Q1: Detached ADUs

Support: 57.79% support detached ADUs in all residential districts. 67.4% with conditions.



Q4: Garden Structures

Consensus: Do NOT treat accessory structures without walls as accessory buildings = 76.19%.

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Survey Clear Consensus (>50%)

Q7: 3-Car Garages and Curb Cuts

Consensus: Yes = 61.58%.



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Q8 – Shipping Containers

Combined Support:

75% support options with aesthetic requirements



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Survey Clear Consensus (>50%)

Q9: Home-Based Businesses

Combined Support: 84.3%

Top Requirements:

Noise limitations (80.42%)

No external signage (23.49%)

No outdoor storage (48.49%)

Q14: Landscaping- Industrial & Commercial Uses

Preference: 54.78% support moderate landscaping; 15.07% want extensive



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Survey Clear Consensus (>50%)

Q15: Development & Impact Fees

Support:

46.22% support fees only for benefiting lots;
24.71% support city-wide allocation.

Implication: Residents favor targeted funding mechanisms for infrastructure.

Q16: Mixed-Use Development

Support:

29.45% support mixed-use by right in all districts;
22.39% in specific areas.

Implication: Growing support for mixed-use, especially with design standards.

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Survey Clear Consensus (>50%)

Q17: Downtown Mixed Uses

83.54% want restaurants/café's next to offices.

Top Choices:

- Restaurants next to offices: 83.54%
- Retail with housing above: 78.48%
- Civic plazas: 47.47%

Q18: Neighborhood Mixed Uses

Top Choices:

Childcare centers: 70.61%
Corner stores: 65.81%
Home-based businesses: 58.79%

Q19: How to Improve Code

Reduce Regulations: Calls for fewer restrictions and simpler processes.

Affordable Housing Options: Emphasis on creating more affordable options.

Traffic & Infrastructure: Suggestions for better road design and EV parking signage.

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Survey -Lack of Consensus

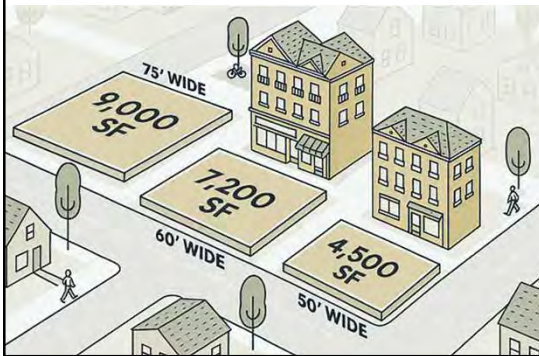
Q3: Lot Size Reduction

64.92% support reducing lot sizes

Yes: 29.10%

No: 29.85%

35.07% but depends on location.



Privacy & Space: keep yards+ avoid cramped neighborhoods.

Green Space & Environment: keep green areas

Neighborhood Character: preserve existing character + avoid overcrowding.

Affordability & Housing Variety: reduce costs and tarter homes.

Infrastructure & Development: Mixed views—some favor flexibility for new developments, others oppose changes in established areas.

Opposition to High Density: Fear of “metro-style” density and loss of community feel.

Support for Flexibility: Openness to smaller lots in new developments or specific areas, not citywide.

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Survey lack of Consensus

Q5: If accessory structures do not count toward the 2-building limit, how many enclosed accessory buildings should be allowed per lot?

2 accessory builings: 38.10% (current rule)

Based on SF'age: 29.41%

Q6: Accessory Buildings & Structure location

- **Side:** 60.87
- **Rear:** 93.31%

Q12: Sidewalk Requirements

Yes, both sides of street: 37.50%

Yes on 1 side: 19.32%

Yes 1 side/both with Landscaping: 15.06%

Only in certain districts: 11.08%

No: 17.05%

Key Themes from Comments:

Walkability and safety—strong arguments for sidewalks to improve pedestrian access.

Cost concerns—developers + homeowners worry about added expense.

Context-sensitive approach—some only in certain districts or based on traffic patterns.

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Survey lack of Consensus

Q13 – Street Widths ****(had most comments 134!)

Narrower residential streets to improve safety, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce runoff pollutants?

Yes: 23.01%

No: 35.03%

Depends on location: 38.92%

Key Themes from Comments:

Parking and access issues—concerns about street parking and maneuvering larger vehicles.

Safety skepticism—many doubt narrower streets improve safety, especially in winter.

Environmental benefits—some support narrower streets for reduced impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff.

Winter maintenance—fear that snow removal will be harder on narrow streets.

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Showcase INPUTiD Open now until January 2026

[inputiD](#)



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Progress so far



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Working on

Internal Meetings for:

- 1) Subdivision
- 2) Parkland Dedication Needs Assessment
 - January 20th City Council worksession

Updating:

- Districts
- Zoning Map
- Table of Uses

We will update Standards after workshop #2¹⁸



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Next Steps



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Next Steps

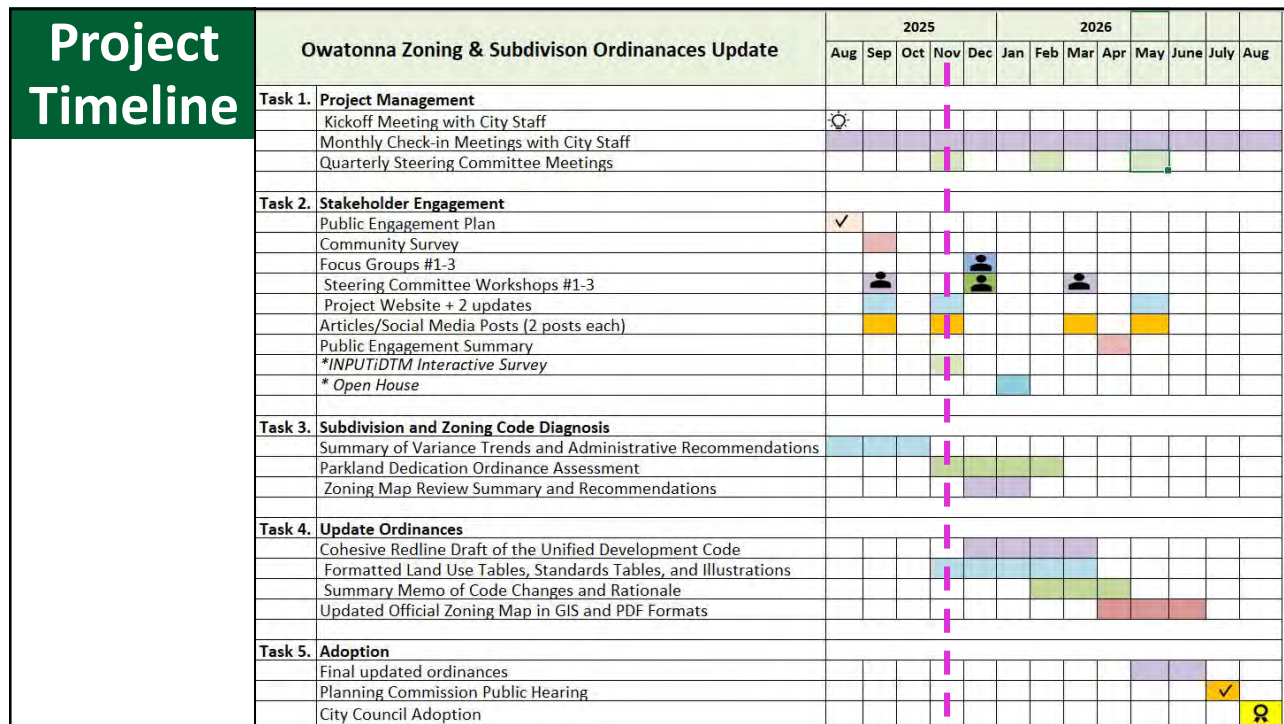
- **INPUTiD open until January- please share it**
- **In-person Workshops with PC in December 9th @ 5:30pm**
 - Districts
 - Table of Uses
 - Zoning Map
 - ADU's + Accessory Buildings + Structures
 - **Focus Groups -on same day as workshop #2**
 - **FG #1:** Design engineers, architects, group for contractors, builders
 - **FG#2:** Facilities, Mayo, industry sectors
 - **FG#3: Residents, Realtor & Bankers....how to reach them?**



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Contacts

- PIC & Engineering Advisor, Derek Olinger: Derek.Olinger@bolton-menk.com
- PM & Lead Planner, Mojra Hauenstein: Mojra.Hauenstein@bolton-menk.com
- Engagement Lead, Robin Caufman: Robin.Caufman@bolton-menk.com

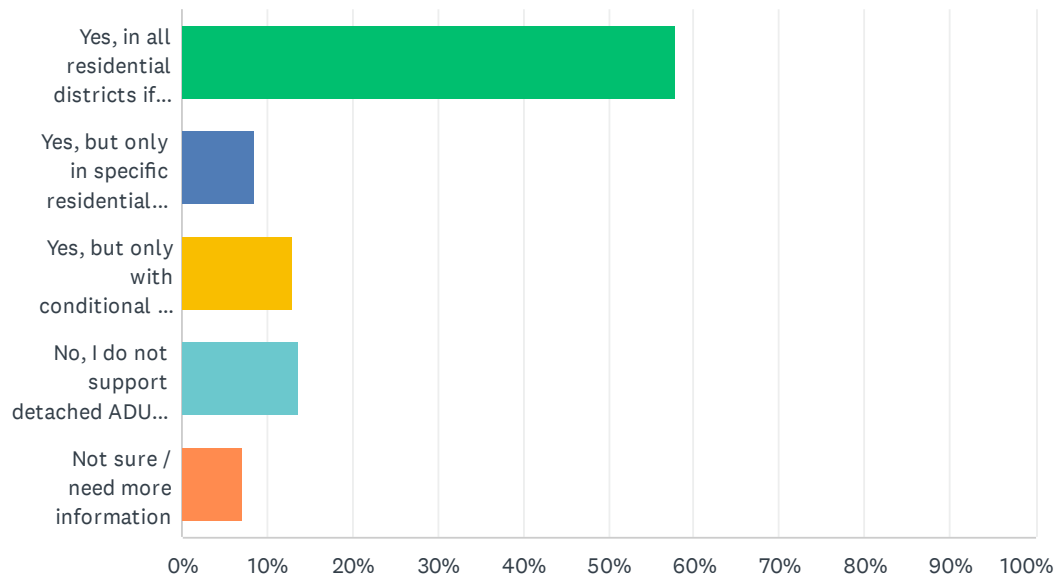
Thank you!



22

Q1 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) Currently, only ADUs that are attached to or within a single-family home are allowed. Detached ADUs—such as a second smaller home like a granny flat, casita, cottage, or tiny home—are not permitted in residential districts. Detached accessory buildings cannot be used as independent residences. Question: Would you support allowing detached ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units)—such as a mother-in-law suite, backyard cottage, or tiny home—on the same lot as a primary residence in residential districts, if they were required to: Match the main home’s exterior design Be smaller in height and less than 50% of the main home’s footprint Require one of the two units to be owner-occupied

Answered: 398 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes, in all residential districts if those conditions are met		57.79%	230
Yes, but only in specific residential districts or locations		8.54%	34
Yes, but only with conditional use permits/ additional review or permit process		13.07%	52
No, I do not support detached ADUs in residential areas		13.57%	54
Not sure / need more information		7.04%	28
TOTAL			398

#	PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING	DATE
1	I don't think it should have to match, but should look nice.	10/31/2025 8:14 PM

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2	I would like to be able to allow my special needs son to live semi independently.	10/31/2025 7:24 PM
3	Mother-in-law houses can benefit the aging population we are facing in the US	10/31/2025 11:12 AM
4	This is needed for elderly parents	10/30/2025 7:09 AM
5	We need affordable housing, especially for aging parents, young adults, and others that can't afford the higher costs of living alone. I want to be able to support my mother as she ages and our children as they gain independence.	10/29/2025 11:45 PM
6	Also, set a minimum percentage of the lot square footage to be required for landscaped or green space.	10/29/2025 10:25 PM
7	Unsure on the needing to be owner occupied aspect. Would they have sidewalks to street to prevent walking through yards, limit of number of people, number of units on property?	10/29/2025 6:41 PM
8	As family dynamics change, more families are involved in the care of senior parents or handicap adults. This provides an option for housing that is more affordable while the main resident can be close by to provide the care and supervision that may be needed.	10/29/2025 3:17 PM
9	It would be a plus for the aging population considering we will continue to have a housing issue with all the boomers.	10/29/2025 2:40 PM
10	We need less government restrictions, it is getting ridiculous.	10/29/2025 2:33 PM
11	If someone owns the land, let them do as they want so long as it follows the correct building codes.	10/29/2025 7:23 AM
12	Oversight can allow this within certain guidelines and avoid misuse. Similar rules exist by neighborhood for sheds for example but are not very strictly adhered to.	10/29/2025 12:55 AM
13	It would solve housing issues for many and I can see no reason why it wouldn't apply everywhere as long as there's room on the property.	10/28/2025 9:34 PM
14	With aging parents, family members etc... combined with the high costs of housing and potential nursing home care, I feel it would be a great option for families to provide another option for family members	10/28/2025 5:05 PM
15	There will always be people that take advantage and rent out to more people than are allowed to live there.	10/26/2025 5:46 PM
16	ADUs need to be available and easily accessible to build. Same design is important but city is challenging enough to work with already so this just add another layer. height should not matter. A two story well designed and laid out shouldn't be impacted.	10/22/2025 6:58 PM
17	Detached ADUs could help alleviate some of the housing insecurity and homelessness. However, additional steps must be taken to protect potential tenants if these ADUs will be rented out by the owner of the main home. Landlords should not be able to rent out both the main home and ADU.	10/22/2025 6:20 PM
18	Should be fewer restrictions than more.	10/22/2025 9:45 AM
19	It's a good idea for parents, grandparents, extra income. However, there should be regulations such as only 25% of a lot can be covered by buildings/imperious surface. P	10/22/2025 9:14 AM
20	It's folks property they own. They should have the freedom to do what they want. If they can put up tent cities to hide their hoarding mess, they should be able to build an ADU.	10/22/2025 2:38 AM
21	Because in our current economy, many people cannot afford to live on their own so they are living with parents, grandparents, etc. I think it would be nice to live on the same property and be able to have privacy. I, myself, have my father in law whom lives with my husband and I. He's retired so he will stay with us until he passes away. It would be nice for him to have his own little unit within our yard.	10/21/2025 9:30 PM
22	First, because a property owner should be able to do pretty much anything they want on their own property. Secondly, there is an affordable housing shortage in Owatonna. Values and taxes have had unprecedented increases in the last 5 years. I think both young people and retirees are basically stuck where they're at. This would provide a "mom" small home and family house for kids. Some type of oversight should be in place, perfect revenue opportunity	10/21/2025 7:07 PM

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for the city. Hopefully such "permit" would be low cost as adding anything, no matter how small, will not be cheap.

23	It will possibly increase in the over stay of people. Like how some people have guest living in campers for an extended period of time.	10/21/2025 6:01 PM
24	I've seen how this works in AZ and I don't want higher density in my neighborhood!	10/21/2025 3:26 PM
25	Real estate is complicated right now, people can't afford to put their loved ones in nursing homes and it's too expensive to sell your property and buy a smaller house. This would help out a lot of families who need that option. I do think there needs to be a minimum lot size, however.	10/21/2025 2:27 PM
26	This is a great opportunity for families, especially with the current housing issues and cost of living skyrocketing. It would bring a potential for stronger families and a stronger community.	10/21/2025 12:20 PM
27	As a new option it seems like a conservative approach would be to start by requiring reviews. If it goes well, it could be expanded to specific areas or unlimited.	10/21/2025 12:18 PM
28	If property size allows another dwelling should be permitted.	10/21/2025 10:35 AM
29	without permits or review, people will put up all kinds of crap.	10/21/2025 8:23 AM
30	I feel like if you have room in your back yard and you want to build a smaller house for guest or just for fun you should be able to.	10/21/2025 7:31 AM
31	I have special need adult that lives with us and we have talked about seeing if we could put a tiny home up for her.	10/21/2025 6:50 AM
32	It should not be your business if the property is owner occupied	10/21/2025 5:32 AM
33	Would there be a limit on how many people can occupy the dwelling? Would there be street parking ordinances in certain neighborhoods so there wouldn't be a ton of cars parked on the street all the time?	10/20/2025 9:20 PM
34	Depending on lot sizes	10/20/2025 9:05 PM
35	Studies show that ADUs offer affordable housing solutions, which are crucial in reducing financial stress and increasing housing stability. Research indicates that multi-generational living arrangements, like those facilitated by ADUs, foster emotional support, lowering feelings of isolation among older adults. Additionally, sharing resources in such setups can improve overall well-being, as financial burdens are eased. Cities that have embraced ADUs often report increased community satisfaction and engagement, reflecting stronger social ties and improved living conditions.	10/20/2025 8:31 PM
36	Yes – I support allowing detached ADUs in all residential districts if those conditions are met. These requirements—matching the main home's exterior design, limiting the ADU's size and height, and requiring one unit to be owner-occupied—strike a good balance between maintaining neighborhood character and providing flexibility for homeowners. Allowing detached ADUs gives families more options for multigenerational living, home-based care, or supplemental income opportunities while using existing land and infrastructure efficiently. This approach supports thoughtful growth and helps meet local housing needs without altering the look and feel of established neighborhoods.	10/20/2025 8:18 PM
37	I haven't heard requests for this here. Seems like a better idea if you live outside of town on larger lots.	10/20/2025 8:10 PM
38	With the growing housing crisis, in certain situations this can lift a huge burden on families sharing housing.	10/20/2025 7:33 PM
39	I don't agree with you proposed requirements and you should open this up the a community discussion.	10/20/2025 7:05 PM
40	It's their property	10/20/2025 6:50 PM
41	It would be nice to have the home owner to make some extra income to help with payments.	10/20/2025 6:28 PM
42	Would need to be factored on the lot size and what would be left for green space. Would not want to see them fit onto a small lot not leaving much green space	10/20/2025 6:21 PM
43	This would allow aging parents to live close to their children without living in the same house.	10/20/2025 6:09 PM

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44	This makes taking care of elderly or disabled family members easier.	10/20/2025 5:08 PM
45	Why would the guest cottage have to match the house? People have sheds on their properties that don't match their houses. Some people's garages don't match their homes. I would not limit it to specific areas of town. I would allow it in all residential areas. That way people who want a guest cottage are not forced to move to a different part of town.	10/20/2025 4:41 PM
46	Why not	10/20/2025 4:29 PM
47	Do not require owner occupied.	10/20/2025 4:28 PM
48	1 dwelling per lot. I prefer not to live in a RV campground	10/20/2025 4:12 PM
49	Local government encroaches far too much on private property rights. Especially in owatonna.	10/20/2025 4:05 PM
50	Because of money issues for a lot of them	10/20/2025 3:35 PM
51	The only way I would support this is if the value of the property is not at or close to poverty level.	10/20/2025 3:17 PM
52	I don't think they would have to be owner occupied, however this is starting to be more common in other areas so I think it would be a good idea to get ahead of the curve.	10/20/2025 3:15 PM
53	We're short.on housing, this would help tremendously	10/20/2025 3:13 PM
54	We need to infill instead of constantly expanding the city limits.	10/20/2025 2:59 PM
55	I've seen sheds about that big anyway.	10/20/2025 2:34 PM
56	These should not be rentable units, like on AirB&B or VRBO. If it's something being used by the owners family/relative, that might be different.	10/20/2025 2:21 PM
57	Having an ADU could help elders keeps some form of independence and could help homelessness if used as rental	10/20/2025 1:56 PM
58	Just count all the bedrooms and bathrooms in the tax assessments	10/20/2025 1:50 PM
59	With senior care costs becoming out of control, granny pods are one way families can save money while not depleting their parents hard earned money.	10/20/2025 1:27 PM
60	Great way to provide additional living areas in all zones	10/20/2025 1:27 PM
61	Lot size is a concern in older parts of owatonna.	10/20/2025 1:26 PM
62	These are great for family visiting, elderly parents to solo have independence but recieve care from family, or for older children to live in before they find their own place! They are also great for at studio space our an at home office that isn't in the home!	10/20/2025 1:22 PM
63	If the lot is large enough why not. They own it and would only be allowed certain size based on your lot	10/20/2025 1:11 PM
64	This would become an Air BnB type revenue stream for many homeowners, thus introducing rental property scenarios in potentially every backyard.	10/16/2025 9:06 PM
65	How would this affect the tax base?	10/15/2025 3:12 PM
66	In other communities, they are eye-sores creating decreased property values	10/14/2025 2:09 PM
67	I think this opens up too many issues. I feel that there are better options to control use like attached second dwelling.	10/14/2025 10:26 AM
68	I do not agree with the height restriction. I would believe there to be a square footage restriction though.	10/14/2025 8:34 AM
69	Yes, but ADU's should have additional increased setbacks.	10/14/2025 8:03 AM
70	Is the AUD going to be taxed separately of its a permitted for occupancy? Is the property taxed increased with this structure?	10/12/2025 7:20 AM
71	we need more options for housing that meet different needs	10/11/2025 6:53 PM
72	Cost of living is expensive, if this helps families by having an additional space. Could also provide use as Air BNB and bring more \$ to the community.	10/11/2025 6:31 PM

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73	There is no reason it shouldn't be allowed.	10/11/2025 8:08 AM
74	Our footprint is too large. We need to use space better to house more people.	10/10/2025 8:32 PM
75	Would like to see a little larger than half the square footage of the footprint.	10/10/2025 6:16 PM
76	It should be allowed so that new homeowners or aging generations can be close to family. It should not be allowed as a short term rental property though.	10/10/2025 2:41 PM
77	This option adds more available housing units to the city	10/10/2025 1:39 PM
78	Depends on size of lot and proximity to neighbors.	10/10/2025 12:37 PM
79	Housing and care for the elderly/young adults is expensive. This would allow families to help take care of each other when other options are too expensive and care is too far away. My mother won't be able to keep her home or be independent when my father dies- but senior communities will be too expensive and she will need someone close to her. And my kids 18-24 that want to learn to be independent can't because there isn't affordable & safe options for them to move out based on the average salary out of high school/college. Families should have the option to take care of each other.	10/10/2025 10:28 AM
80	The requirement to "Match the main home's exterior design" is not important.	10/10/2025 10:06 AM
81	This can be a great solution to affordable housing without sacrificing quality of housing/ density regulations	10/10/2025 9:14 AM
82	Not ur property so mind ur own business	10/10/2025 8:46 AM
83	I dont think they should be permitted everywhere.	10/9/2025 10:07 AM
84	Multigenerational housing is a need that Owatonna hasn't had the foresight to act on. There is a coming elder care crisis and housing like this will be one way to help keep people housed. I'm divided on if Municipalities should be in the business of dictating exterior design. On one hand, it can be a limiting factor. On the other hand, there are unpleasant looking residential buildings in town with no 'soul'. I believe a happy medium could be found.	10/4/2025 5:57 PM
85	We need more options for families to age at home. The ADU should not have to match the main home's design, though. That seems arbitrary.	10/4/2025 5:46 PM
86	Could result in too many adult residents in one lot	10/3/2025 5:48 PM
87	I would hope there would be a permit process that ensures that the property and property lines are managed well. I could see someone putting one of these right in their front yard on a main street, and I would hope there are some sort of neighborhood zoning rule that would prevent that. That said, if the ADU is well within the property and matches the look of the main home, I think it is a great way to increase housing options for the community.	10/3/2025 9:06 AM
88	Think it's a great idea	10/3/2025 7:43 AM
89	We need more flexible options for first time buyers and seniors looking to downsize	10/2/2025 8:10 PM
90	Additional review should make sure ADU meets the requirements BEFORE it is built, not after it's erected and neighbors have complaints.	10/2/2025 7:20 PM
91	ADU's would be wonderful for aging parents or adult children with challenges.	10/2/2025 3:07 PM
92	Some areas of town the lots aren't big enough to support that.	10/2/2025 2:40 PM
93	Anywhere where 2 or more units are allowed.	10/2/2025 2:35 PM
94	I think that the current land use zoning currently enforces an outdated style of residential growth pattern that is incoherent with sustainable and equitable growth in Owatonna. I think that the allowing of ADUs would open the door for more economic friendly routes of density growth within the city, without completely demolishing long standing residential structures.	10/2/2025 1:46 PM
95	If this is something that allows solutions for personal to find housing, I do not see a downside.	10/2/2025 12:51 PM
96	I have a garage I'd love to turn into a small home. Housing prices are insane and a rental income would be great.	10/2/2025 11:56 AM
97	Smaller house footprint doesn't mean smaller family. Some would cram as many people as	10/2/2025 11:46 AM

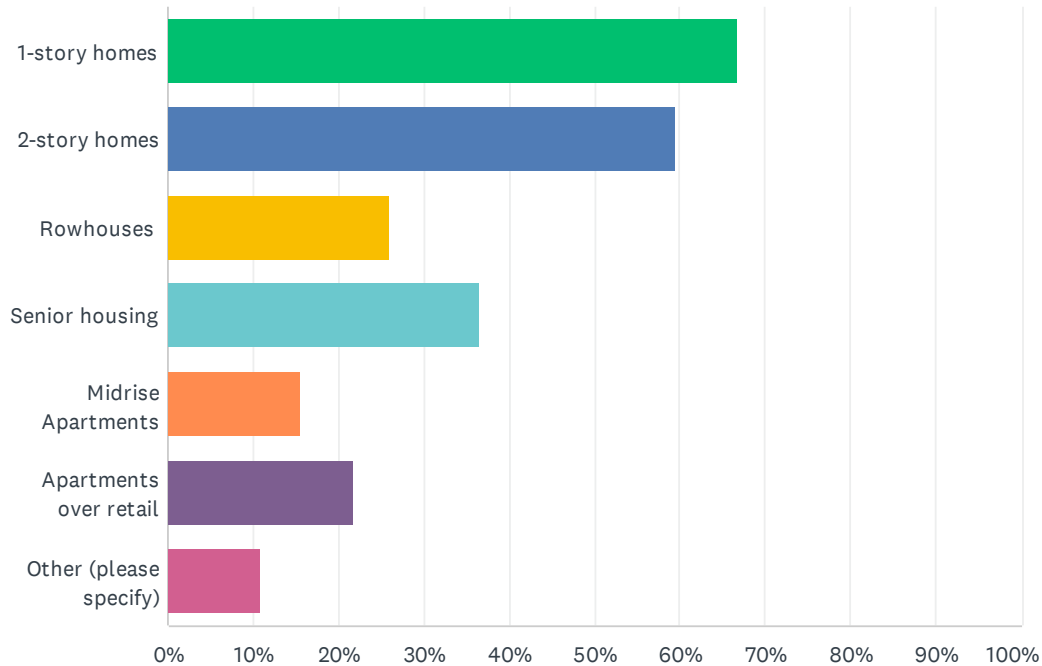
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they could in there for lower rent.

98	Having a parent or other relatives close is helpful for many reasons. Especially with cost of living and taking care if elderly. Having them close is just good sense.	10/2/2025 11:35 AM
99	It would need to define specific location addresses for separate residents.	10/2/2025 10:53 AM
100	Negative Impact to property values and neighborhood.	10/2/2025 9:50 AM
101	Citizens should be allowed to generate income from land they pay for/own.	10/2/2025 9:20 AM

Q2 Housing Type Preference What types of housing would you like to see more of in Owatonna? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 397 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1-story homes	66.75% 265
2-story homes	59.45% 236
Rowhouses	25.94% 103
Senior housing	36.52% 145
Midrise Apartments	15.62% 62
Apartments over retail	21.66% 86
Other (please specify)	10.83% 43
Total Respondents: 397	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Patio homes	10/31/2025 6:41 AM
2	single family in general, no particular style	10/30/2025 9:48 AM
3	Doesn't matter	10/30/2025 9:27 AM
4	A mix	10/30/2025 7:09 AM
5	Tiny areas like trailer lot areas	10/29/2025 11:45 PM
6	Easy for older people get around	10/29/2025 4:19 PM

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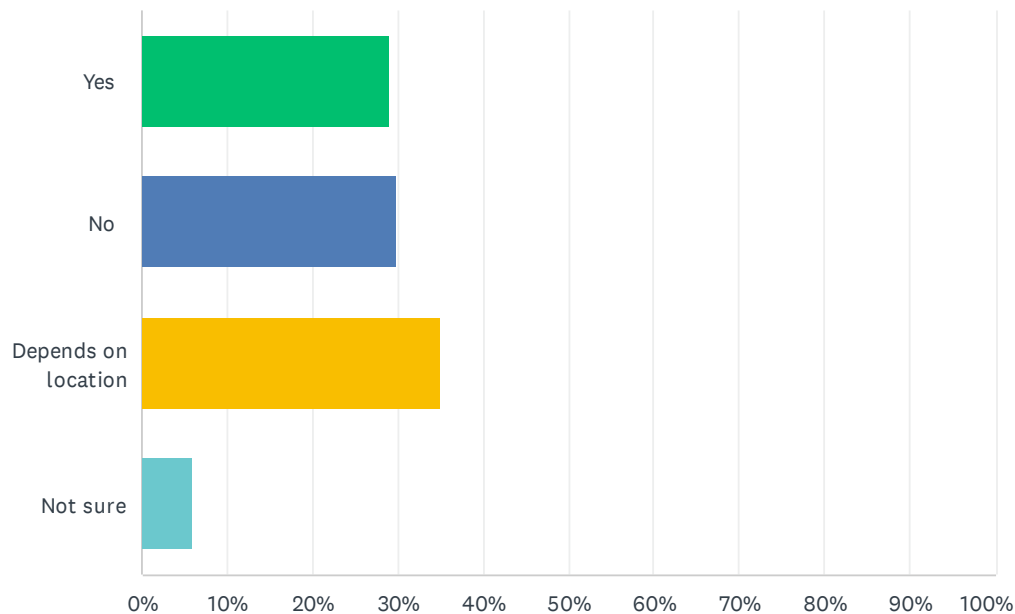
7	SINGLE FAMILY HOMES; affordable housing	10/29/2025 7:23 AM
8	Small to midsize townhomes for younger singles/couples	10/28/2025 9:50 PM
9	No more apartments	10/28/2025 9:40 PM
10	More higher market townhomes or detached townhomes.	10/26/2025 5:46 PM
11	Whatever the homeowner wants to build	10/26/2025 6:25 AM
12	Anything but more apartments that cost the same to rent as housing.	10/25/2025 3:37 PM
13	Affordable housing	10/22/2025 6:20 PM
14	Any	10/22/2025 5:06 PM
15	3 story homes. I have a family of 6 people and a larger house would be nice. Many houses for sale only have 2-3 bedrooms. I need 4 bedrooms at a minimum and 5 or 6 would be more ideal.	10/21/2025 9:30 PM
16	Owatonna does not need more housing.	10/21/2025 6:01 PM
17	Smaller slab housing with upscale amenities located on better lots within a neighborhood. Not put on the outer edges close to busy streets.	10/21/2025 3:26 PM
18	No more apartments.	10/21/2025 12:07 PM
19	Affordable apartments	10/21/2025 7:16 AM
20	Condominiums that can be owned	10/20/2025 9:10 PM
21	Would like to see more ownership and less rentals. People tend to keep up their places better if they own.	10/20/2025 8:10 PM
22	Townhouses, just no HOAs	10/20/2025 7:05 PM
23	Single family homes	10/20/2025 6:50 PM
24	Retirement home living, townhomes for retired and or older people living on their own.	10/20/2025 6:21 PM
25	Housing for seniors with varying levels of care(or none) and condos	10/20/2025 5:32 PM
26	One level for elderly and larger home options for larger families (5+ bedrooms)	10/20/2025 5:08 PM
27	Apartments with more than two bedrooms	10/20/2025 4:29 PM
28	Multi family homes	10/20/2025 3:15 PM
29	I would love to see more single family housing. We have an excellent school district and it would be nice for our infrastructure to accommodate and reflect that.	10/20/2025 3:04 PM
30	Affordable apartments!	10/20/2025 2:59 PM
31	It should be up to the owner	10/20/2025 1:53 PM
32	No apartments	10/20/2025 1:11 PM
33	Senior living is ridiculous unless they're providing support to disabled seniors. Money is the same shade of green across demographics. People would freak if Owatonna allowed a black only apartment building but for the elderly it's fine. Nasty and entitled boomers.	10/11/2025 8:08 AM
34	That are AFFORDABLE	10/10/2025 12:55 PM
35	Any type that developers are willing to build, based on what the market will support.	10/10/2025 10:06 AM
36	Strip clubs, swinging houses	10/10/2025 8:46 AM
37	Owatonna needs more housing overall, with the exception of midrise apartments or apartments over retail. Midrise and AOR buildings have become an ugly blight in Owatonna that is not affordable. Owatonna needs to focus on getting more home ownership. The rental market is designed to squeeze money out of pockets and out of the community.	10/4/2025 5:57 PM
38	No more apartments over retail. We don't need any more empty retail buildings.	10/4/2025 5:46 PM

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39	Talking with Seniors it sounds like there is lack of.	10/4/2025 5:39 PM
40	We need housing. Owatonna has everything going for it except new construction. Minnesota needs to loosen regulations to compet with other states.	10/2/2025 3:07 PM
41	Allowing for older homes to have a second story even if others in the neighbor hood don't.	10/2/2025 2:40 PM
42	Higher end townhouses. Detached or quad square. A lot of people want to downsize from a house, but still want a yard, double garage etc. But dont want the outside upkeep.	10/2/2025 11:46 AM
43	Step program. Small home to assisted living to health care facility	10/2/2025 9:32 AM

Q3 Residential Lot Sizes Code Reference: §157.028: Currently, minimum lot sizes vary by district. R-1 requires single family detached homes to have lots be a minimum of 9,000 square feet in area and a minimum width of 75', which limits the amount of housing types that can be built and increases the cost of infrastructure (streets, sewer, water, etc...). Question: Do you support reducing minimum residential lot sizes to allow more housing variety and reduce development costs?

Answered: 402 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.10%	117
No	29.85%	120
Depends on location	35.07%	141
Not sure	5.97%	24
TOTAL		402

#	IF NO, PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING IF YES, PLEASE SHARE THE ACCEPTABLE LOCATIONS HERE.	DATE
1	Houses are too close together. We need our space. If you don't like space, get an apartment.	11/1/2025 4:37 PM
2	Lots that are too small look tacky, crowded, and looks less valuable.	10/31/2025 8:14 PM
3	How small and crowded do we want to get	10/31/2025 11:12 AM
4	To much congestion and zero lots line should be used in planned 55 and up community	10/31/2025 6:41 AM
5	Shouldn't matter the size,	10/30/2025 9:27 AM

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6	I own a tiny lot on Glendale Street, I am kind of limited to the size of house I can put on it. I can't imagine going smaller than 64 feet wide.	10/29/2025 2:33 PM
7	I think smaller footprints make sense in certain parts of town possibly undergoing redevelopment, but not necessarily new build neighborhoods.	10/29/2025 10:35 AM
8	Homes should have a yard. This asinine assumption that people would be chill with losing out on a yard basically makes the home you buy lack the amenities our parents had: somewhere to gather family and friends. This whole thing reeks of greed. Just stop building multi-family homes and attract builders that can make affordable 2-bed 1.5 bath homes. Nobody can afford housing here as is and now people don't have anything to dream and work towards.	10/29/2025 7:23 AM
9	New neighborhoods yet to be developed	10/28/2025 5:05 PM
10	We don't need to cram extra people into smaller spaces, that's what the twin cities are for.	10/26/2025 6:25 AM
11	Stop trying to control people	10/22/2025 5:06 PM
12	Residential lot minimums should match existing residential lot minimums.	10/22/2025 12:09 PM
13	Anywhere	10/22/2025 9:45 AM
14	Property prices are out of reach for many. Higher density housing availability costs less. We need more homes in our city to attract more middle income families.	10/22/2025 2:38 AM
15	I think that would be okay in a subdivision but shouldn't be implemented everywhere in town. I think acceptable locations would be anywhere on the edge of town where new developments are being built, but choose one side/one area and keep it focused there. I am sure there are some people who prefer this type of lot but I don't think majority would. I have a fairly decent sized yard myself and I would never downsize with having three children.	10/21/2025 9:30 PM
16	Doesn't matter to me. New developments?	10/21/2025 7:07 PM
17	We are not meant to live shoulder to shoulder. We should have a minimum lot size of 10k sq ft.	10/21/2025 6:01 PM
18	We like space between ourselves and the neighbors. Smaller lots contributes to higher densities, more traffic and higher noise levels. If I wanted higher density I'd live in a city!	10/21/2025 3:26 PM
19	If you are going to allow the nanny cottages, then no, you can't decrease the square footage. However, if you are not going to allow that, then yes, I support making the lot line smaller.	10/21/2025 2:27 PM
20	Not sure about locations. It seems like some consistency would be necessary so you have similar lot and housing sizes near one another.	10/21/2025 12:18 PM
21	everywhere	10/21/2025 8:23 AM
22	While I understand the goal of reducing costs, shrinking lot sizes leads to crowded developments with minimal yard space. As someone who just bought a home, this was something that deterred us from houses that were for sale. Homes that lacked enough space greatly decreased property value in our eyes and diminish neighborhood quality.	10/21/2025 7:38 AM
23	There should be areas of denser housing with affordable single family starter homes. New development areas would be a good place to start.	10/21/2025 7:16 AM
24	Housing should be able to have their privacy from neighbor not sit on top of each other	10/21/2025 6:50 AM
25	Larger lot sizes help reduce overcrowding, which can enhance public service efficiency, such as waste management and emergency response. This approach also allows for better infrastructure development, ensuring that essential services are adequately supported. Furthermore, access to green space associated with larger lots contributes to improved public health outcomes. Overall, these regulations support sustainable growth and maintain the quality of life for residents.	10/20/2025 8:31 PM
26	No one wants to live on top of their neighbors. The lots are small enough as it is. The more concrete that goes up, the higher the heat becomes during the summer, which means much higher AC and electric bills. More asphalt means more roads needing plowed And less green space for children to play and explore.	10/20/2025 8:30 PM
27	Minimum lot sizes should remain consistent across established neighborhoods to preserve their existing character, spacing, and infrastructure balance. If the city wants to encourage	10/20/2025 8:18 PM

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smaller lots or higher-density housing, that should occur through the creation of a new zoning category—such as a downtown or urban infill district—rather than by changing standards within current residential zones. This approach allows for more housing variety and affordability where appropriate, while maintaining predictability and stability for existing homeowners and neighborhoods.

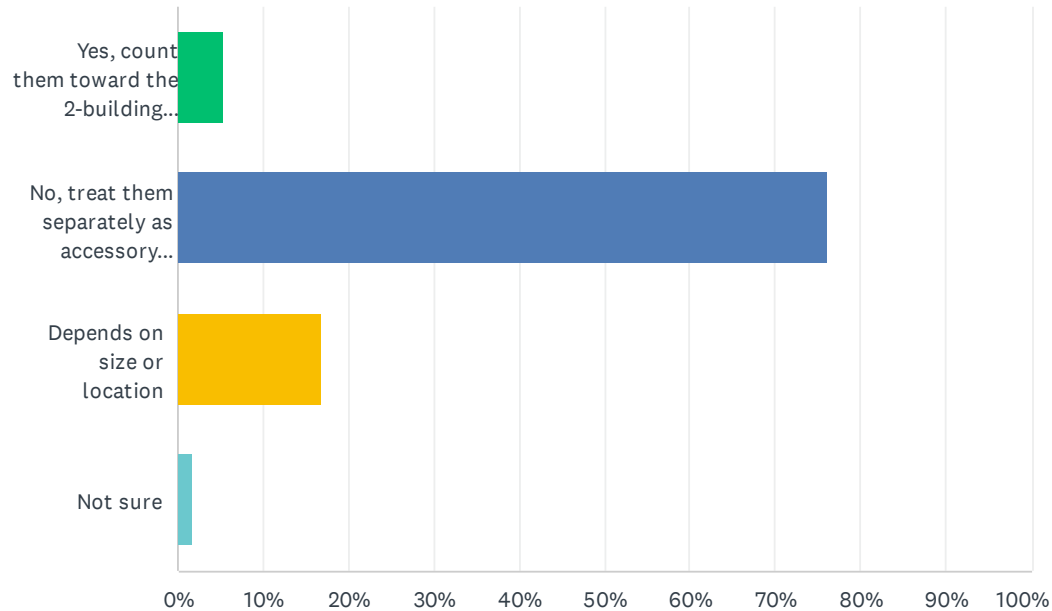
28	Would be more acceptable in a larger city with mass transportation etc. In Owatonna, it would just lead to a more crowded area, more parking restrictions etc.	10/20/2025 8:10 PM
29	Family's need bigger lots for their kids to play in, keep kids out of the roads and away from danger	10/20/2025 8:09 PM
30	It would depend on the area and development	10/20/2025 6:21 PM
31	In some spots in town, the houses on the avenue side of the block have significantly smaller lots than the houses on the street side of the block. If you have kids, dogs, or a garden, smaller lots are not ideal. Just because the lot is smaller, does not make the house cheaper. So, might as well give everyone the same size lot. Also, when lots are smaller, houses are closer together. Then it feels like your neighbor's window looks into your window. When lots are smaller, such as my lot, and my neighbors' lots, it makes it hard to do remodeling. At some point, we will need to replace our garage, but our garage 1-2 feed from the property line. Will we even be able to redo our garage? If we had any intention of adding on to our house, we would be unable to because our house is too close to the property line. When lots are smaller, it limits what kind of home remodeling people can do.	10/20/2025 4:41 PM
32	I don't want to look out my window, my neighbor do the same and we are close enough to shake hands. If you want to live close to someone, live in an apartment	10/20/2025 4:12 PM
33	With most households having more than one vehicle and more than one person living in the house, I would want a larger lot size to support a larger house, garage, back yard, pets, and families.	10/20/2025 3:17 PM
34	Used to be 66'. Perhaps it's time to return to that throughout the city.	10/20/2025 2:59 PM
35	I think you should have room for a yard, a garden, a three car garage, a horse stable, pasture and RV parking.	10/20/2025 2:30 PM
36	We are not the metro. Give neighbors breathing room. We do not need to live on top of each other	10/20/2025 2:22 PM
37	Not enough yard space. Especially if a 2nd detached residence is allowed.	10/20/2025 2:21 PM
38	I previously lived in an older home and the neighbors house was so close. There was no privacy, you could hear everything and it woke me up frequently. If this was a senior neighborhood, it would be okay as a small yard would make lawn care easier, but part of home ownership should be having room to entertain outside, have kids around, etc. Otherwise you might as well rent an apartment.	10/20/2025 2:21 PM
39	Lot sizes are already small for many homes. Many people own pets or have children. Shrinking lots isn't going to gain much space. I like my privacy and ability to be able to do what I want without a neighbor up my butt.	10/20/2025 2:13 PM
40	I feel lots are too small now. I would love to see a development with 1+ acre lots that allow sheds on the property.	10/20/2025 1:33 PM
41	I could see this downtown, but most people want a yard with their home. Too small and it's going to be hard to resell.	10/20/2025 1:29 PM
42	We don't need the homes touching	10/20/2025 1:27 PM
43	Owatonna has many residential areas with nice usable lots. Lowering the standards for the sake of cramming more people in a smaller space will change the feel of our town.	10/16/2025 9:06 PM
44	It reduces property values and creates crowded neighborhoods.	10/16/2025 9:05 PM
45	In time, they will look like "trailer parks"	10/14/2025 2:09 PM
46	I think this is one of the easiest ways to help control housing cost. Reduce the lot size, reduce the house size and lower the overall cost.	10/14/2025 10:26 AM
47	In a development you can transition from small lots into larger lots. It would be important to	10/14/2025 8:50 AM

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	have more than one entrance to a transitioning development.	
48	Having lived "downtown" on a 65' wide lot, I see no problem with narrower lots	10/14/2025 8:34 AM
49	Market conditions should drive lot size.	10/14/2025 8:03 AM
50	need to think differently about housing	10/11/2025 6:53 PM
51	Lot size should be dictated by what the market will support.	10/10/2025 10:06 AM
52	Don't have any room as it is that we are already told what we can and can't do one our own property	10/10/2025 8:46 AM
53	It should all be in one neighborhood, not scattered all over town.	10/10/2025 8:30 AM
54	Makes houses too close to each other	10/3/2025 5:48 PM
55	I don't want to see the natural portions of lots get condensed into more city housing. I like to see space, green, nature, trees.	10/3/2025 9:06 AM
56	Already established neighborhoods should not be disrupted, but new developments and builds could have some eased requirements.	10/2/2025 7:20 PM
57	For row housing, it makes sense, but if someone wants a big lot, then no. We are the greatest country in the world with a lot of resources.	10/2/2025 3:07 PM
58	Some lots are too small anyway.	10/2/2025 2:40 PM
59	I think recently developed areas around the new high school and McKinley elementary would be great areas for this type of smaller housing. I believe that in the long term it would allow for the growth of lively and bright neighborhoods bustling with people.	10/2/2025 1:46 PM
60	Green space is VERY important	10/2/2025 11:56 AM
61	New development only. That way folks know the "density" of their neighborhood. Some want more space, some dont.	10/2/2025 11:46 AM
62	specific housing zones should be established so we do not have mixed lot sized housing, keeping neighborhood values more consistent. Lots with in a development should stay consistent.	10/2/2025 10:53 AM
63	Housing is in a crisis state and all options need to be on the table or new residents will not be able to move here (aside from renters). This will eventually start to impact economic growth.	10/2/2025 9:38 AM
64	Cramming more homes closer together is bad for the environment. Homes should have a reasonable amount of green space available for polinators/critters.	10/2/2025 9:20 AM
65	Don't want to see townhomes, apartments or row homes being built in residential neighborhoods amongst 1 and 2 stoller single family homes. There should be dedicated neighborhoods/areas for those types of housing	10/2/2025 9:11 AM
66	We don't want to see Owatonna turn into a large city type with houses almost touching each other.	10/1/2025 8:22 PM
67	Existing infrastructure should help determine locations. If infrastructure is sufficient, all locations should be considered for reclassification.	10/1/2025 8:14 PM

Q4 Should garden structures without walls (e.g., pergolas, trellises, gazebos, pools) be counted as accessory buildings?

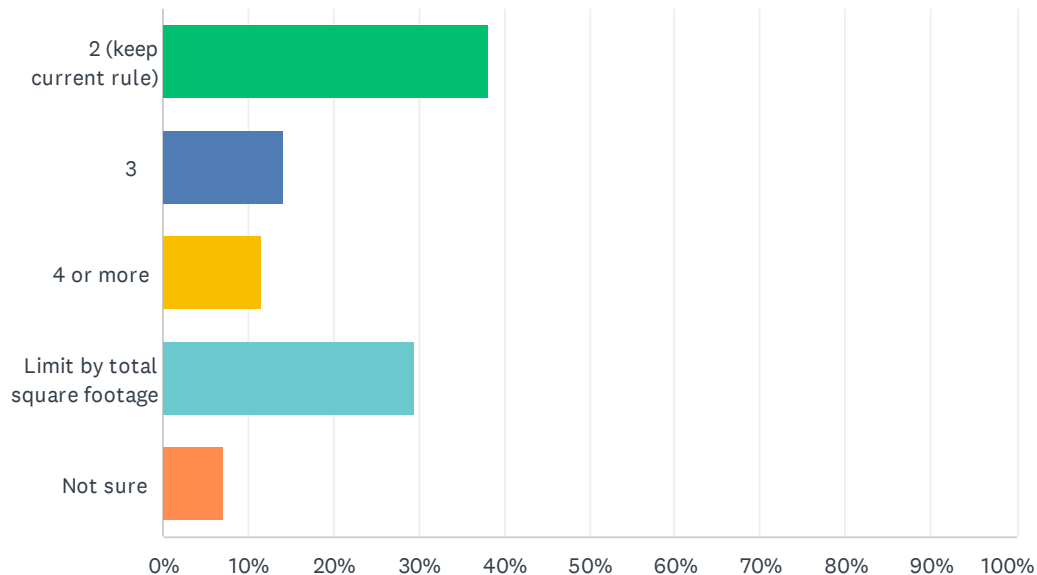
Answered: 357 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, count them toward the 2-building limit	5.32%	19
No, treat them separately as accessory structures	76.19%	272
Depends on size or location	16.81%	60
Not sure	1.68%	6
TOTAL		357

Q5 If accessory structures do not count toward the 2 accessory buildings limit, how many accessory buildings (enclosed) should be allowed per lot?

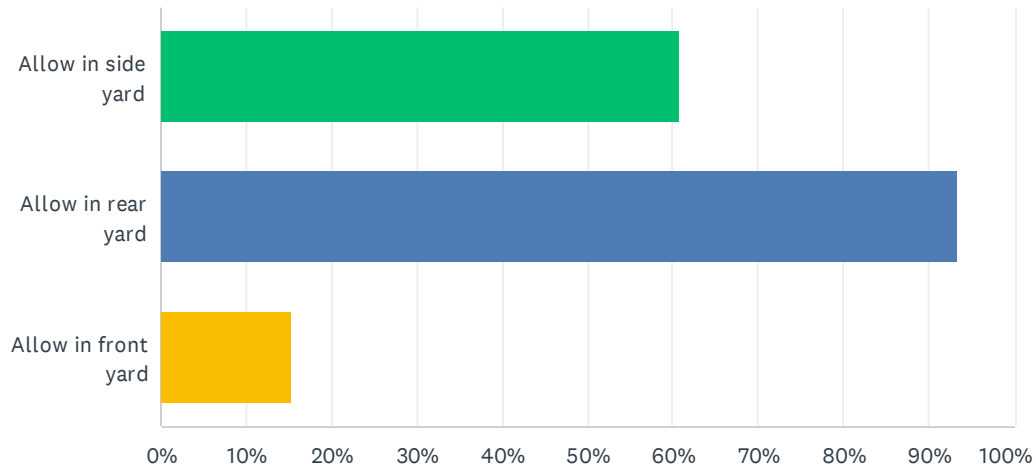
Answered: 357 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
2 (keep current rule)	38.10%	136
3	14.01%	50
4 or more	11.48%	41
Limit by total square footage	29.41%	105
Not sure	7.00%	25
TOTAL		357

Q6 Currently, only detached garages can be located in the side yard, but other structures must be in the rear yard. Where should accessory buildings and structures be allowed?

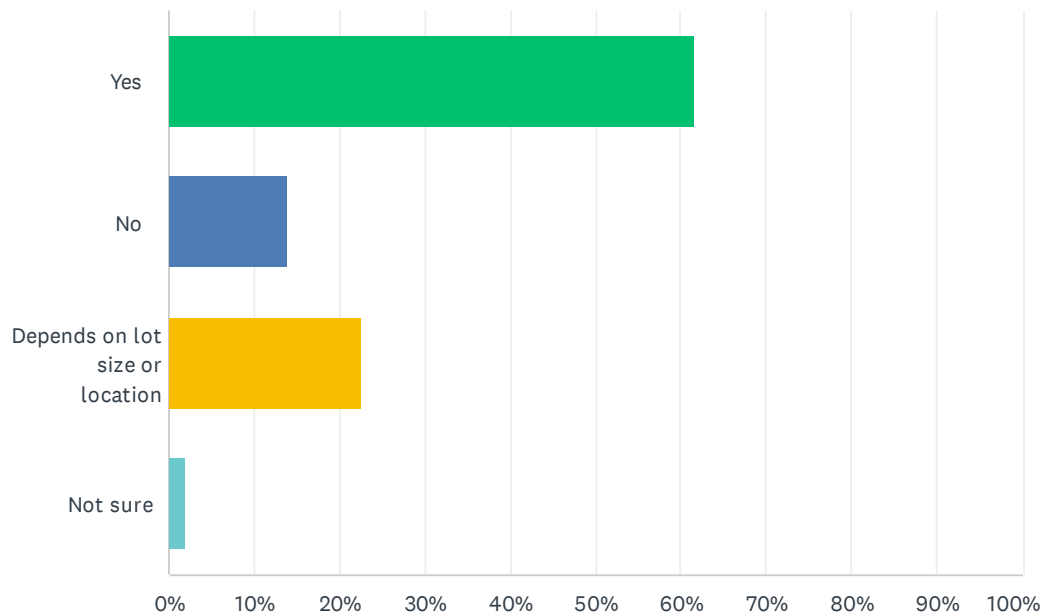
Answered: 299 Skipped: 105



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Allow in side yard	60.87%	182
Allow in rear yard	93.31%	279
Allow in front yard	15.38%	46
Total Respondents: 299		

Q7 Detached Garages in Residential Districts: Code Reference: §157.028: Current zoning requires all single-family lots to accommodate at least a 2-car garage (typically 22'–26' wide). However, there is growing demand for 3-car garages (typically 32'–36' wide). The code currently limits driveway curb cuts to 24 feet wide max, which can make it difficult to back straight out of a 2-car garage into the street. Question: Would you support a code revision to allow up to a maximum of 3-car garage, and increase the maximum curb cut to 36 feet to allow straight backing from garage to street?

Answered: 354 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	61.58%	218
No	13.84%	49
Depends on lot size or location	22.60%	80
Not sure	1.98%	7
TOTAL		354

#	PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING	DATE
1	make the street fit the house	10/31/2025 11:14 AM
2	many garages double stack giving a square footage of a 4 car but the facing of a 3 car. how would this be addressed. Others in upper end areas may want a larger facing garage. larger curb cuts mean larger impervious areas which may not be good. People have been backing out	10/30/2025 9:57 AM

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of third stalls for many years, having to turn as they back, they can keep doing it. The 30' curb cut for larger lots should be maintained. The 2-car minimum accommodation is just a minimum, if someone wants a larger garage, they should select a lot that it fits on or design for the lot accordingly.

3	A licensed driver should be able to maneuver a vehicle safely out of a 24 ft curb cut.	10/29/2025 10:39 PM
4	Most families have more than 2 cars. A wider driveway approach would allow young drivers easier access to the streets	10/29/2025 7:09 PM
5	I had no idea you could only have a 24 foot wide opening until now, stupid	10/29/2025 2:36 PM
6	Question seems poorly worded. Is it really difficult to back out of a two car garage onto the street with current curb cut of 24 ft? We have no problems backing out of our two car garage with current curb cut.	10/29/2025 1:04 AM
7	People don't know how to back up and to have them try to maneuver from a three car space into a two car driveway is impossible for these drivers	10/28/2025 5:10 PM
8	Why not?	10/26/2025 5:49 PM
9	The homeowner should make that decision. Less government oversight is better.	10/26/2025 6:28 AM
10	Reduces street parking with no real benefit. Increase setbacks from street instead.	10/25/2025 2:36 PM
11	In general yes, however it should not be allowed for smaller lot sizes, especially in more urban areas, because it limits street parking.	10/22/2025 6:26 PM
12	Hell, no stop trying to limit/ control people	10/22/2025 5:13 PM
13	Certainly should be allowed if the lot is large enough. My lot does not allow for a 2-car garage, however my neighbor could easily fit a 2 or 3 car.	10/22/2025 9:20 AM
14	Wider driveway would lead to safer arrival and departure from the home.	10/22/2025 2:43 AM
15	I don't see why not.	10/21/2025 9:35 PM
16	Less attractive to have that much concrete.	10/21/2025 3:33 PM
17	I don't think this should be the standard, I think it should be an option if somebody is having their home built and they want to customize a three car garage, but I don't think everyone should be able to do this.	10/21/2025 2:31 PM
18	Its their lot. Whether its grass or cement, should not matter. They still get accessed the same per square footage.	10/21/2025 12:12 PM
19	Allowed buildings should be based on available lot and current curb cut is too small for most garages	10/21/2025 10:38 AM
20	reduces on-street parking, and generally the 3rd garage stall is most likely not used for a vehicle, or if it is, not a frequently used one. Frankly, people with garages usually fill them with stuff and not vehicles.	10/21/2025 8:28 AM
21	Larger garages and wider curb cuts take away from green space.	10/21/2025 7:44 AM
22	Too much concrete and less grass/curb makes an already car centric community even less visually appealing.	10/21/2025 7:20 AM
23	If your witching a down town (high populated, curb parking area) the no but if you are in a busy road which does not allow parking and or residential then yes	10/20/2025 9:09 PM
24	If the lot is large enough to accommodate a 3-car garage, the curb cut should be allowed to be the same size.	10/20/2025 8:37 PM
25	I always wondered why all the driveways curved instead of being able to back straight out when we moved here. What is the benefit of having a smaller curb cut?	10/20/2025 8:16 PM
26	Big garages are very useful to keep things like boats and trash can and lawn mowers out of sight from the street	10/20/2025 8:12 PM
27	The question is unclear.	10/20/2025 7:38 PM

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28	It just makes sense, the average number of cars per household is growing. Let homes grow with it.	10/20/2025 7:37 PM
29	Easier to back out	10/20/2025 6:32 PM
30	Cars are bigger and a 2 car garage is not big enough for two larger vehicles.	10/20/2025 5:16 PM
31	If someone has a three stall garage, why can't they have a 3 stall wide drive way? What does it matter? It's THEIR property. If someone doesn't like the look of a three stall wide driveway, they can close their blinds.	10/20/2025 4:51 PM
32	This makes sense to change. If home owner wants it and will pay for it why not?	10/20/2025 4:17 PM
33	Why not? If the owner wants to clear that much after the snowplow has been through, let them.	10/20/2025 3:23 PM
34	Less green space	10/20/2025 3:20 PM
35	Do not need more driveway space which causes runoff.	10/20/2025 3:04 PM
36	If the price of the curb cut is assessed to the property owner and not dumped on the taxpayer, I say they can do whatever they want.	10/20/2025 2:37 PM
37	Vehicles are getting larger and there's no way I could fit my two vehicles in a two car garage. Plus, as housing has become unattainable for younger generations, they tend to stay home longer. Garages need to be allowed to be bigger and accommodate more.	10/20/2025 2:30 PM
38	Certain areas need all the extra curbside parking.	10/20/2025 2:28 PM
39	Makes sense	10/20/2025 2:24 PM
40	When I built my house 10 years ago, I could not comprehend why the city wouldn't allow my builder to have the curb cut the width of my garage. Seems unsafe to have to turn my car in the driveway to avoid driving in the grass when I should be looking for other cars, pedestrian, bike ect.	10/20/2025 1:38 PM
41	People should be able to choose if they want a 2 or 3 car garage depending on the size of the lot.	10/20/2025 1:35 PM
42	Too much concrete (or asphalt) will increase flooding issues. More natural landscaping such as grass or wild grasses and flowers increase infiltration of precipitation, mitigate flooding, and increase biodiversity (important pollinators, etc.). Additionally, too much driveway is not aesthetically pleasing.	10/15/2025 2:42 PM
43	Dumb question	10/15/2025 8:24 AM
44	Why would you limit the garage stalls. I am in support of the wider curb cut.	10/14/2025 10:33 AM
45	I see no real benefit of limiting the curb cut with the exception of parking. This is not a great reason for such a limit. My current house currently has this problem.	10/14/2025 8:41 AM
46	We don't need runways for driveways. Third stalls are only used everyday for short periods of a home's overall lifespan. Keeping a 24' driveway adds visual interest.	10/14/2025 8:06 AM
47	Allows for more efficient backing, I don't see any negatives.	10/11/2025 6:38 PM
48	We had a new build with a curved driveway for the 3rd stall and it made it impossible to get in and out of at an angle so it was used as storage instead.	10/11/2025 3:30 PM
49	I can't think of a reason to limit the curb cut size to be smaller than the driveway/garage area. Seems kind of silly.	10/10/2025 10:10 AM
50	Yes as well as not caring for about how many or the type of vehicles that occupy the garage or property	10/10/2025 8:52 AM
51	Makes it easier to back out	10/3/2025 5:50 PM
52	No - someone with a 3 car garage can back out and angle to the standard driveway curb cut.	10/3/2025 9:10 AM
53	Wide driveways mean more impermeable surface and more runoff. Maybe allow exception for wider area if permeable surface is used	10/2/2025 7:26 PM
54	Because it's OUR property and we should be able to do that. It would not affect the neighbors	10/2/2025 3:12 PM

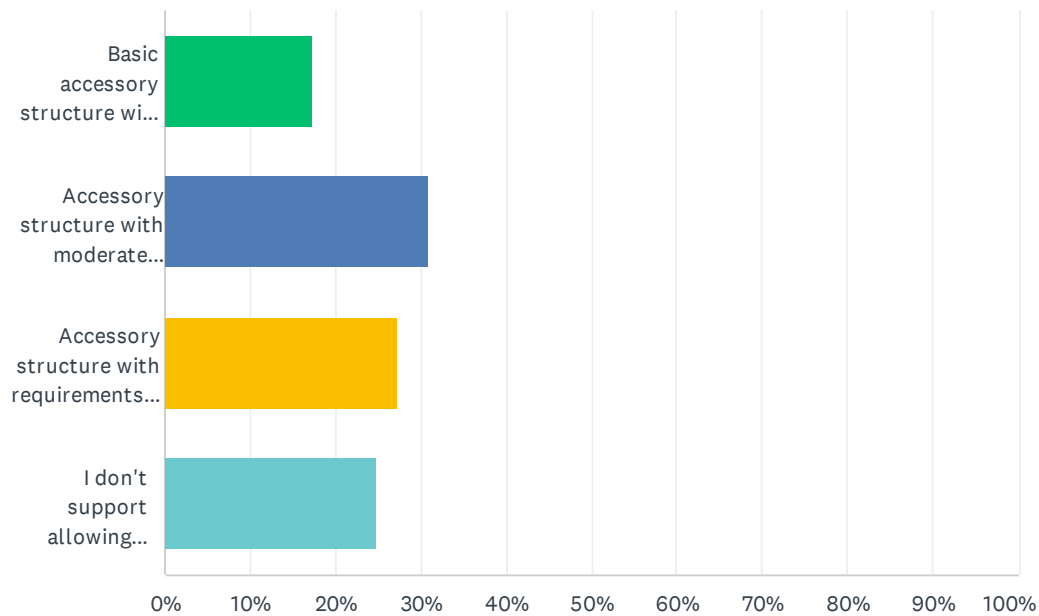
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at all.

55	I believe that the changing of laws to reflect continuing car, overconsumption (filling 'needed' space with unnecessary belongings), and concrete culture will further push the wealth divide in Owatonna. If people are in need of extra storage, or additional garages, there are storage units available in the community and surrounding area. It should not be on the city to extend and maintain curb cuts for a culture that is over-consumptive in nature. A high amount of people do not need a third garage-- I believe that this question is privileged in nature and only supports the continuation of high-wealth families and individuals in the community. We can do better for our community that focusing on extra, unneeded storage spaces.	10/2/2025 1:52 PM
56	Some neighborhoods need street parking and too many wide garages could impact this option	10/2/2025 12:00 PM
57	It would be there if you needed that long of a cutout. Doesn't hurt anything to make it longer.	10/2/2025 11:51 AM
58	Backing up and turning are basic skills everyone should know and use. If you are unable to maneuver out of your driveway maybe you shouldn't be driving.	10/2/2025 11:39 AM
59	Increasing driveway width will increase spacing of infrastructure (e.g water and roadways) which will increase repair and replacement costs at end of service life. I do not support any changes that do not include an analysis of future costs.	10/1/2025 8:31 PM
60	It looks better and safer for backing out onto street.	10/1/2025 8:27 PM

Q8 Storage Containers Code Reference: §157.040(A)(4): Currently, storage containers are not defined in the zoning code and thus by default are not allowed as accessory storage in residential areas. Accessory buildings must meet design standards and be compatible with the neighborhood. Question: Would you support allowing shipping containers in residential areas as accessory structures? If so, select the concepts below that you would support in Owatonna?

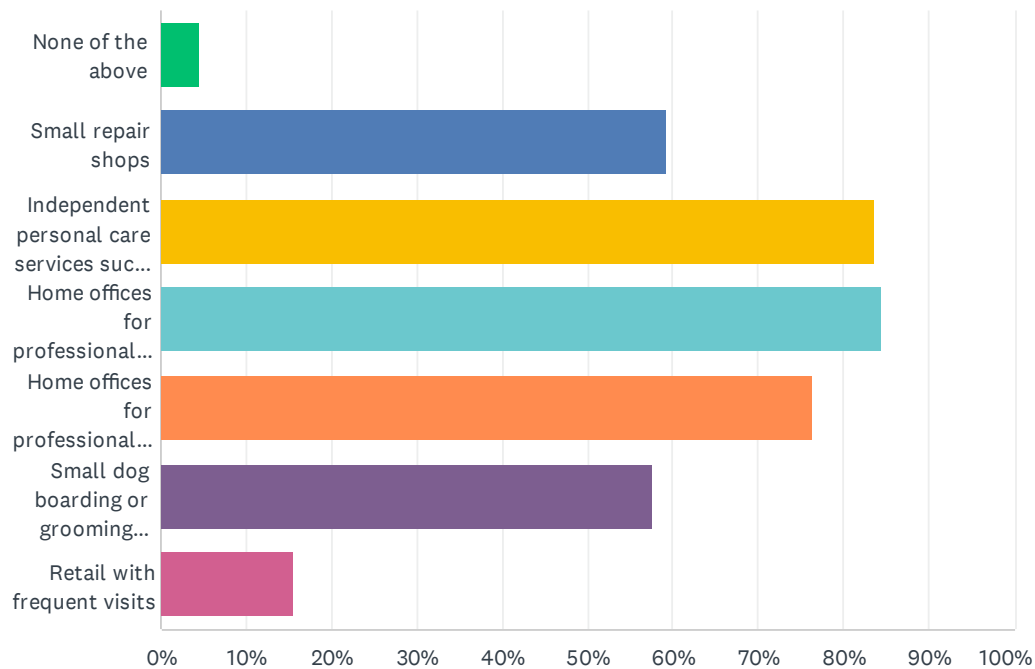
Answered: 353 Skipped: 51



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
 Basic accessory structure with minimal aesthetic improvements	17.28%	61
 Accessory structure with moderate aesthetic improvements	30.88%	109
 Accessory structure with requirements to match the style and color of house	27.20%	96
I don't support allowing shipping containers as accessory structures	24.65%	87
TOTAL		353

Q9 Home-Based Businesses Home occupations are currently allowed in residential districts with strict limitations. The code prohibits retail storefronts, external signage, external alterations, outdoor storage, and limits traffic and equipment. Question: Should the zoning code allow small-scale home-based businesses in residential areas if they meet strict conditions? Select the types of small-scale home-based businesses you would support:

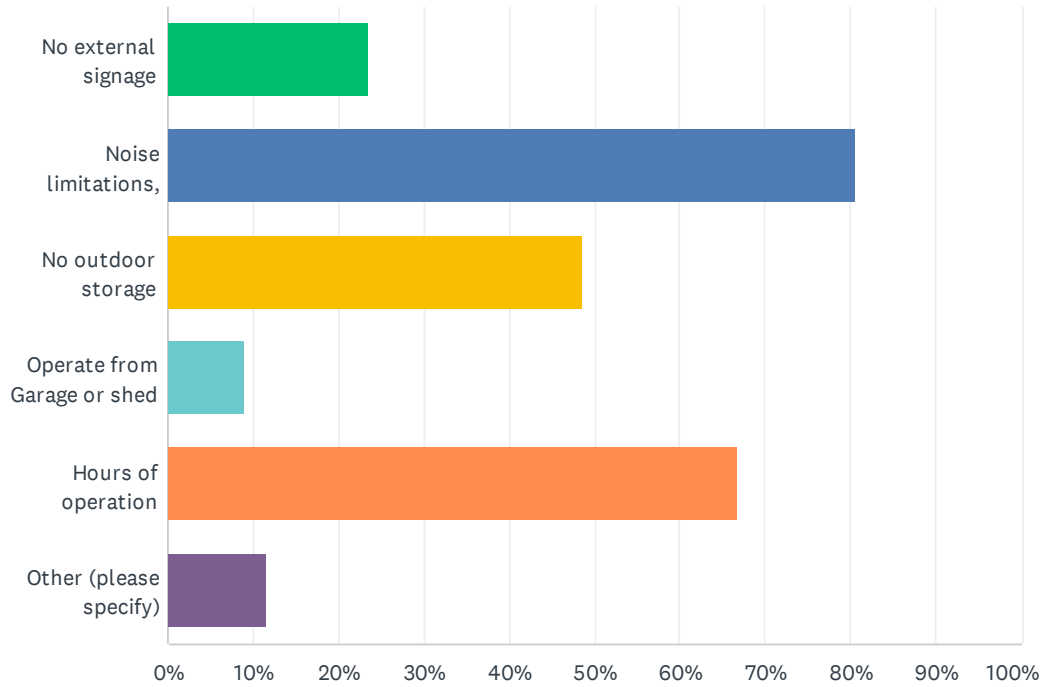
Answered: 352 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	4.55%	16
Small repair shops	59.38%	209
Independent personal care services such as hair and nail limited to one customer at a time	83.52%	294
Home offices for professionals with no customer visits (architects, computer programmers, etc...)	84.38%	297
Home offices for professionals with some customer visits (accountants, insurance, attorneys, financial advisors)	76.42%	269
Small dog boarding or grooming limited to one customer at a time	57.67%	203
Retail with frequent visits	15.63%	55
Total Respondents: 352		

Q10 What requirements should be applied to home businesses allowed in Question 9?

Answered: 336 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No external signage	23.51%	79
Noise limitations,	80.65%	271
No outdoor storage	48.51%	163
Operate from Garage or shed	8.93%	30
Hours of operation	66.67%	224
Other (please specify)	11.61%	39
Total Respondents: 336		

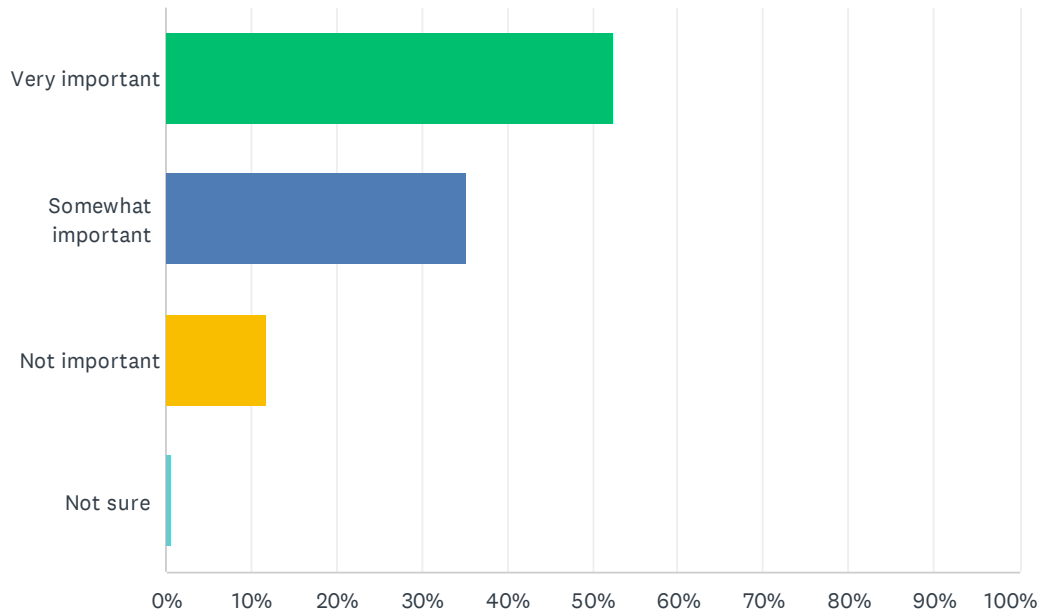
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	minimal external signage, very small	10/30/2025 9:57 AM
2	why limit someone's ability to start a business, its difficult to find a suitable facility let alone purchase. Leave people alone	10/30/2025 9:31 AM
3	Maintain appearance	10/30/2025 7:13 AM
4	Parking- can't afford neighbor parking areas	10/29/2025 11:49 PM
5	Limit how late customers can arrive like quiet hours from 9pm-7am	10/29/2025 3:38 PM
6	Must have their own parking on their property and not interfere with neighbors	10/29/2025 3:20 PM

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7	Limited external signage within reasonable limits	10/29/2025 1:04 AM
8	Specific signage requirements	10/28/2025 9:43 PM
9	None	10/23/2025 8:38 PM
10	Limited external signage. 1 small sign on exterior of home to indicate the business. Window decals to indicate hours and entry should be allowed too	10/22/2025 6:26 PM
11	Stop trying to control people!	10/22/2025 5:13 PM
12	Hours of operation should be 8-5	10/22/2025 1:16 PM
13	Parking restrictions for customers	10/21/2025 2:31 PM
14	Parking control	10/21/2025 10:23 AM
15	None	10/21/2025 8:01 AM
16	Small signage	10/21/2025 6:54 AM
17	No requirements	10/21/2025 12:47 AM
18	Signage upto the typical realtor sign	10/21/2025 12:43 AM
19	Minimal outside signage.	10/20/2025 9:16 PM
20	Limited signage	10/20/2025 8:16 PM
21	If it is online only with no vehicle traffic at all for that business its ok	10/20/2025 7:09 PM
22	Yes, allow signage in their yard. Business hours of 7am-5pm. Noise: equivalent of home construction.	10/20/2025 4:51 PM
23	No dog boarding! This town has enough dogs	10/20/2025 4:17 PM
24	Parking control	10/20/2025 3:23 PM
25	Home business is fine as long as it's during normal business hours and there isn't a lot of traffic and parking issues for customers and the residential area the business is in.	10/20/2025 3:21 PM
26	Allow signage	10/20/2025 3:20 PM
27	Adequate parking without compromising neighbors.	10/20/2025 3:04 PM
28	External signage only mounted on dwelling not in the yard	10/20/2025 2:28 PM
29	Require outside signage	10/20/2025 2:18 PM
30	Signage on the house or porch. Not to intricate the yard view or street	10/20/2025 1:59 PM
31	People should be allowed to operate a home business, however it needs to be considerate of the neighbors also.	10/20/2025 1:35 PM
32	Non-permanent signage with size requirements such that it doesn't detract. I.e. the little signs you stick in the ground during election time, but slightly larger.	10/13/2025 1:18 PM
33	Home business/guests do not cause nuisance parking for fellow residents	10/10/2025 10:05 AM
34	Signage Limitation	10/10/2025 9:34 AM
35	No requirements	10/10/2025 8:52 AM
36	Dog boarding should not be limited to one customer at a time	10/7/2025 5:35 AM
37	Quit stopping people from trying to earn money. Let them have their businesses out of their home.	10/3/2025 12:14 PM
38	External signage should be complementary to surroundings	10/2/2025 11:39 AM
39	Parking limitations	10/2/2025 10:39 AM

Q11 Trails & Walkability Question: How important is it to you to have sidewalks and trails to make the city more connected and accessible by walking?

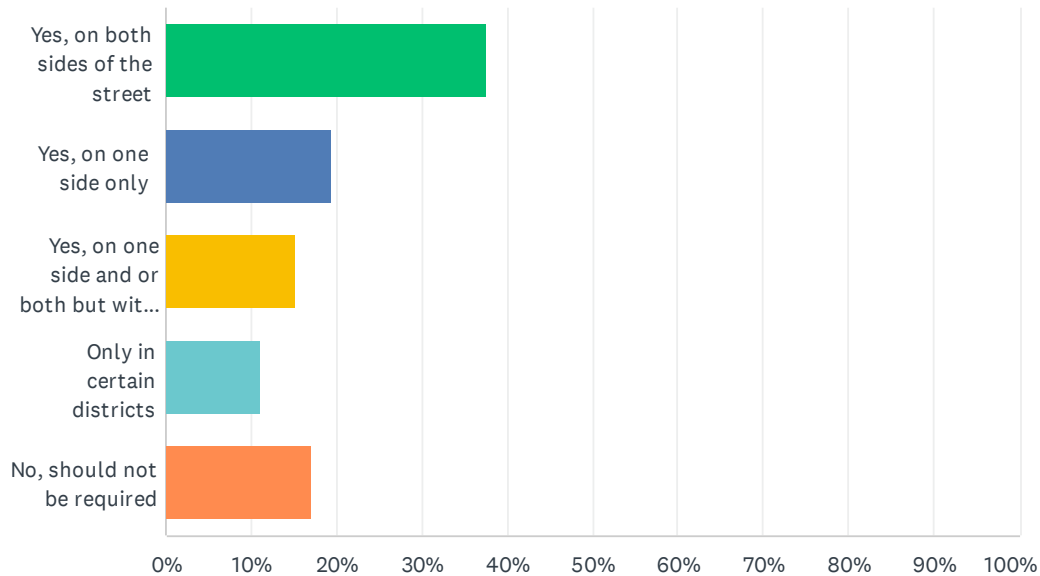
Answered: 352 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	52.56%	185
Somewhat important	35.23%	124
Not important	11.65%	41
Not sure	0.57%	2
TOTAL		352

Q12 Sidewalk Requirements Code Reference: Not currently standardized in code and sidewalks are typically left to developer's discretion. Question: Should sidewalks be required in new residential developments?

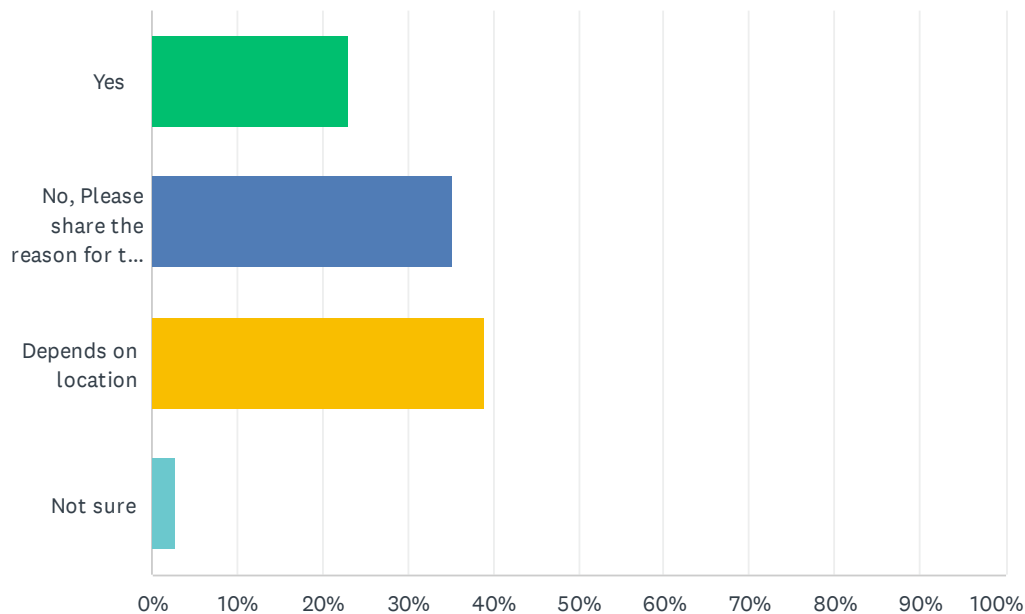
Answered: 352 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, on both sides of the street	37.50%	132
Yes, on one side only	19.32%	68
Yes, on one side and or both but with some landscaping	15.06%	53
Only in certain districts	11.08%	39
No, should not be required	17.05%	60
TOTAL		352

Q13 Street Widths Code Reference: §157.028: Street width requirements vary by classification. Narrower streets may improve safety, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce stormwater runoff. Question: Would you support narrower residential streets to improve safety, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce run-off pollutants?

Answered: 352 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.01%	81
No, Please share the reason for the answer below	35.23%	124
Depends on location	38.92%	137
Not sure	2.84%	10
TOTAL		352

#	PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING	DATE
1	Roads are too narrow the way it is. Trucks and suvs are getting bigger, not smaller. It also leaves less room for parking and more blind spots. Also if semi trucks need to get access it is almost impossible in some cases. Also we need to get our roads back up to standard. We are years behind on overlays. Let's get these fixed up. Kids can't even ride bikes and rollerblade without falling into cracks.	11/1/2025 4:48 PM
2	We have a lot of people that street park in Owatonna, along of the apt buildings don't provide enough parking for their tenants. The more narrow the street the trickier it is to pass parked cars when on coming traffic is coming. Especially in winter when the street get narrowed by approximately 3 feet on each side of the road from plows not plowcloae enough to the curbs.	10/31/2025 8:31 PM
3	traffic load should affect width	10/31/2025 11:17 AM

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4	development costs have gotten excessively expensive, in addition to maintenance. narrower streets would help reduce those costs. additionally reducing impervious surfaces cannot hurt. Parking ratios should also be looked at in commercial areas, due to the change to online retailing, many areas of parking lots are never used, causing a lot of unnecessary impervious surface.	10/30/2025 10:01 AM
5	Allow for the streets to have parking on both sides of the street.	10/30/2025 9:34 AM
6	Bikes also travel on the road	10/30/2025 7:14 AM
7	I believe it is more dangerous since cars are too close together, less time to stop for pedestrians/bikers. Focus more on intersections than street width	10/29/2025 11:51 PM
8	In what way do narrower streets with vehicles forced to drive closer to each other and less space to get in and out of parked cars make anyone safer? Simply look at the conditions in the first few blocks of North Cedar. I really don't think anyone feels safer driving or parking in that area.	10/29/2025 10:48 PM
9	The streets that were put in downtown are ridiculous and narrower parking areas i don't see how narrower streets are safer	10/29/2025 7:13 PM
10	I see no reason a narrow street improves safety. Quite the opposite	10/29/2025 5:44 PM
11	Not on existing streets but new development would be ok	10/29/2025 4:21 PM
12	It's going to crowd the road even more and not safe for bicyclists or kids	10/29/2025 3:39 PM
13	Narrower streets would negatively impact parking, plus with our winter months, it may make snow removal more difficult to manage.	10/29/2025 3:23 PM
14	Idiots can't drive their tiny little cars in the lanes we have, I have a big truck that I need all the space that I'm allowed already and people do not give it to me. Owatonna has the worst drivers ever.	10/29/2025 2:38 PM
15	Yes, but there must be sidewalks for walkability	10/29/2025 10:39 AM
16	There is some degree of necessity for larger vehicles for service for example, but could have some limitations	10/29/2025 1:07 AM
17	Narrow streets just make sense in regards to the items mentioned above	10/28/2025 5:13 PM
18	Only if the is no parking	10/26/2025 10:49 AM
19	How could it possibly be safer to have less room to go around other vehicles?	10/26/2025 6:30 AM
20	There is already very limited parking in several places in the city	10/24/2025 12:21 PM
21	Would cause more accidents.	10/23/2025 8:39 PM
22	Off-street Parking can make this worse	10/23/2025 7:42 AM
23	Wider streets. Downtown is a perfect example of how stupid the layout of narrow streets are.	10/22/2025 7:02 PM
24	Narrow roads without street parking	10/22/2025 6:29 PM
25	We have options for walker and bicyclists.	10/22/2025 5:15 PM
26	In general, making the street narrower does not make it safer.	10/22/2025 1:19 PM
27	Vehicles are much larger than they used to be and narrow streets make on-street parking more difficult and harder for vehicles to pass, especially if parking on both sides of street.	10/22/2025 9:24 AM
28	Streets are already too narrow for parking. Especially in MN	10/22/2025 8:02 AM
29	My truck barely fits on main and cedar already. It's a pickup truck	10/22/2025 6:36 AM
30	There are too many narrow roads already. Other things need attention first.	10/22/2025 5:50 AM
31	Because too many people don't know how to drive as it is. Also, many people park on the street as it is. If streets are narrower, I believe more accidents or hit and runs will happen. Everyone insurance premiums will increase.	10/21/2025 9:39 PM
32	Needs to still allow for street parking	10/21/2025 7:57 PM

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33	Too many drivers on their phones while driving, seems like the roads should be wider to allow more room for swerving.	10/21/2025 5:25 PM
34	Narrow streets would not allow parking on the street. With cars parking on road it would be hard for 2 cars to drive by in both directions	10/21/2025 4:37 PM
35	If no street parking is allowed, maybe. Otherwise too narrow to get thru with larger vehicles like trash trucks, or landscaping trailers or building equipment. Also with no sidewalks people walk in the streets and ride bikes.	10/21/2025 3:40 PM
36	There are already smaller streets, like Truman between Main Street and school Street. It is really dangerous having two vehicles going down that section of the road at the same time.	10/21/2025 2:33 PM
37	Did this philosophy about narrower street come from locations that have as long of a winter as we do and get as much snow and ice. Narrow icy streets with plowed snow banks on the curbs sounds like a disaster. ALSO, if we aren't going to require sidewalks where do you think people are walking, running and riding their bikes? Making the space that we are forced to share for all these multiple activities to occur is not safer. Narrowing streets would just be more stressful and dangerous for the variety uses on them and is poorly thought out.	10/21/2025 12:53 PM
38	The streets are already small in certain areas. Maybe a standardized street size for new improvements and for planed improvement.	10/21/2025 12:26 PM
39	Visitor parking	10/21/2025 12:15 PM
40	Due to some cases of reckless driving and big trucks it will have to be dependent on the area	10/21/2025 10:28 AM
41	parking	10/21/2025 10:20 AM
42	Bigger cats, bicycles and scooters, golf carts and walkers (if no sidewalks) all need space for passing and safe travel.	10/21/2025 9:12 AM
43	I do not see how a narrower street improves safety or reduces run-off pollutants. I would not touch existing streets; narrower for new developments is okay, but should still have on-street parking.	10/21/2025 8:32 AM
44	Helps people slow down. If the street is too narrow though, there needs to be no street parking when appropriate.	10/21/2025 7:22 AM
45	Not if their is parking on these streets I feel vechiles are getting wider also	10/21/2025 6:56 AM
46	Our downtown is a perfect example to tight can't get out of your car while traffic goes by	10/21/2025 12:50 AM
47	If we are basing this on downtown, it's horrible. Way to narrow and the parallel parking really sucks.	10/20/2025 9:39 PM
48	In all honesty the road should not be made narrower per say the mail truck is stopped or emergency personnel and or delivery truck to be able to use what available side of road and still slow traffic to move with little disruption	10/20/2025 9:13 PM
49	Some areas benefit from narrower streets, while others, especially main thoroughfares accommodating larger vehicles like semi-trucks and dump trucks, require wider lanes. However, the key factors for safety and traffic flow are effective road design elements such as paint and landscaping. For instance, avoiding paint on residential streets and positioning trees closer to the road can create a perceived sense of danger for drivers, encouraging them to slow down. In contrast, wide open front lawns and clear road markings signal to drivers that they are on a highway, often leading to increased speeds.	10/20/2025 8:47 PM
50	I do not support reducing street widths. Wider streets are essential for public safety, accessibility, and long-term city resilience. Narrowing them might reduce short-term construction costs, but it can create lasting problems with congestion, parking, and emergency response. Wider streets allow fire trucks, ambulances, buses, delivery vehicles, and snowplows to maneuver safely — especially during winter storms when snow piles significantly reduce usable width. They also provide safe space for on-street parking, bicycle use, and pedestrians to coexist without forcing vehicles into tight, unsafe lanes. From a planning perspective, adequate street width supports future infrastructure upgrades — such as utility lines, stormwater systems, bike lanes, or sidewalks — without requiring costly reconstruction later. It also helps maintain neighborhood aesthetics, sightlines, and traffic flow consistency, especially in established residential areas built with existing standards. While narrower streets may be appropriate in compact downtown or mixed-use areas, maintaining wider streets in	10/20/2025 8:29 PM

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residential and suburban zones promotes safety, functionality, and long-term fiscal responsibility. Reducing widths across the board would be a step backward for community accessibility and public safety.

51	Need safe street parking	10/20/2025 8:27 PM
52	Wider streets allow for safer parking. Also in the winter the street stays at a good width when the plows don't get all the way to the curb.	10/20/2025 8:21 PM
53	Small roads are more prone to accidents and feel cramped when driving through the city	10/20/2025 8:14 PM
54	It's frankly ridiculous how wide our streets are.	10/20/2025 7:40 PM
55	Vehicles by default are getting larger, and many vehicles lack the turning radius to safely do a u-turn on most Owatonna streets	10/20/2025 7:40 PM
56	As vehicles get bigger and kids need to enter and exit for a vehicle wide lanes are of a safety concern and need to be as wide as possible.	10/20/2025 7:11 PM
57	We need street parking for houses and room for kids activities on side streets	10/20/2025 6:56 PM
58	I like the wider streets for being able to walk on either side and not have to worry about space with on coming traffic.	10/20/2025 6:37 PM
59	Winter parking is already a nightmare	10/20/2025 5:33 PM
60	Narrowed streets with on street parking looks trashy and creates unnecessary obstacles for drivers and makes it unsafe for pedestrians. Plugged roads during snow events. If I wanted tiny yards and narrow roads, I'd live in the metro.	10/20/2025 5:19 PM
61	How are narrowed streets safe? Make them wide	10/20/2025 4:20 PM
62	The roads are already too narrow in certain areas, like Cedar downtown.	10/20/2025 4:03 PM
63	Winter parking. The streets get narrow enough.	10/20/2025 3:31 PM
64	Definitely not main roadways, I would really love to see bike paths connecting the north end to the south end of town on the east side, and better bike paths along downtown. Also we really need EV chargers downtown and not just the j-1772 slow chargers but fast chargers like chadmo (not just Tesla ones as some EV models can not connect to them)	10/20/2025 3:27 PM
65	Narrowing street width is not practical with winter snow banks on the sides of the road. Daytime travel during the winter months can be difficult with vehicles parked on both sides of the road. Examples: Riverside and Franklin Avenues. -	10/20/2025 3:24 PM
66	Its already hard enough to park in currently narrow streets...how do you expect someone with a big truck to park on a narrowernstret, especially in the winter?	10/20/2025 3:18 PM
67	There does not seem to be any rhyme nor reason to the existing street widths.	10/20/2025 3:07 PM
68	They end up to narrow and are difficult to drive through with larger vehicles. Need an example look at downtown Owatonna.	10/20/2025 3:04 PM
69	We need more street parking.	10/20/2025 2:54 PM
70	I hate driving on the narrow streets which includes the new downtown. I tend to avoid the area which means I'm not doing much business down there anymore.	10/20/2025 2:48 PM
71	I don't see how it improves safety. In a way, I think it makes it more dangerous. Maintenance cost difference would be minimal if quality materials are used. Same amount of pollutants. I don't see how that would change.	10/20/2025 2:46 PM
72	Understand lower maintenance and runoff, do not believe they improve safety - please cite standard or study showing this.	10/20/2025 2:44 PM
73	I would argue that it is less safe due to less visibility and limited walking/biking access. If the street is narrow then sidewalks should be required.	10/20/2025 2:42 PM
74	We drive trucks and trailers through town and most streets are already too narrow with on street parking. Surprised none have been side swiped yet.	10/20/2025 2:35 PM
75	Cars are getting larger and narrow streets make it more difficult when there's a lot of traffic.	10/20/2025 2:32 PM

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76	Narrow streets are not safer.	10/20/2025 2:26 PM
77	Cars never stay on there side of the rode, Cars never park al the way to the curb and then you have people who put there garbage/recycling bin in the street. Once you add that plows narrow the road even more in the winter before you know it's barley a 1 lane road with Cars parked on each side.	10/20/2025 2:12 PM
78	It would make snow removable worse. Narrow streets wouldn't accommodate street parking as easily.	10/20/2025 2:11 PM
79	Big vehicles need more room.	10/20/2025 2:06 PM
80	You need room for parking in both sides of the street. And also for two vehicles to drive both directions (two-way driving) next to those vehicles that are parked on both sides.	10/20/2025 2:05 PM
81	Too many people in the streets	10/20/2025 1:59 PM
82	Because are road are fine we already have a narrow road going down Fremont st and down town	10/20/2025 1:56 PM
83	Parking is a huge concern, already an issue with trucks and full size vehicles navigating residential streets	10/20/2025 1:56 PM
84	The design of the new downtown is not great because of everything narrowing. I would argue it is far less safe to have narrower roads.	10/20/2025 1:44 PM
85	I don't know how narrow streets are safer? What about winter when cars are parked on the street. Snow plow in this city is a problem already. We don't need more issues. Don't get me started on even/odd enforcement!	10/20/2025 1:43 PM
86	Wider parking along curbs increase the safety for those exiting and entering the parked vehicle	10/20/2025 1:38 PM
87	Busy streets and areas that allow parking need to be wide enough to pass oncoming traffic easily.	10/20/2025 1:37 PM
88	Narrow streets reduce speeds and require drivers to pay more attention. Also Pedestrian cut ins create safer crossings.	10/20/2025 1:34 PM
89	Reducing size isn't going to increase safety, dropping residential speed limits to 20 or 25 like the metro and Rochester have done would help.	10/20/2025 1:33 PM
90	With people out walking kids playing street reduced becomes more dangerous	10/20/2025 1:18 PM
91	I disagree with you presumptuous that narrow streets are more safe. The pollution statement is opinion and can't be effectively proven. I have never seen local streets covered in oil and other pollutants.	10/16/2025 9:22 PM
92	I don't agree with your opinions on the "benefits."	10/16/2025 9:22 PM
93	if a person has guests in their home and there is no where to park on the street this causes cramped streets, also narrowing lanes is difficult due to the increased vehicle sizes, trucks and suvs	10/15/2025 2:10 PM
94	We need on street parking in residential areas	10/14/2025 5:34 PM
95	Narrow streets would be difficult with street parking as well as winter driving	10/14/2025 12:40 PM
96	A sidewalk should be required if you are narrowing street. (at least one side)	10/14/2025 8:58 AM
97	I believe we have enough issues of safety and accidents, I do not believe narrower streets will help with that.	10/14/2025 8:45 AM
98	Collectors should still provide at least one parking lane. I would support even narrower driving lanes and intersection bumpouts.	10/14/2025 8:08 AM
99	As a subdivision ages, families grow older abd more vehicles exist at homes. The narrowed streets pose parking issues. This leads to safety issues if cars are parked all long the road and driving is tight - from hitting parked cars to kids running out between cars and not being seen.	10/13/2025 1:21 PM
100	Allowing 2 lanes of traffic would be beneficial when there are cars parked on both sides of the road.	10/12/2025 12:54 PM

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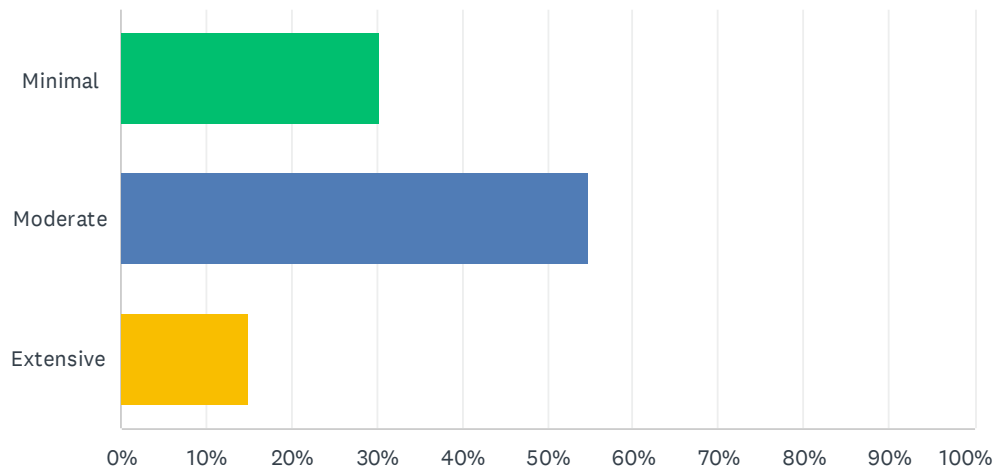
101	Downtown and busier streets need to be wider, due to the abundant traffic. Federated and Jostens need their own parking garage or a ramp. The amount of cars blocking the view of corners and crosswalks is getting beyond dangerous. Especially by the post office.	10/12/2025 7:29 AM
102	I live on a road with a wide street and near a park. 16th St SW. Cars cruise by all the time and having a young child who likes to play with kids across the street adds extra concern for children safety.	10/11/2025 6:41 PM
103	Narrow roads are terrible	10/11/2025 6:18 PM
104	Less safe Winter parking ordinance	10/11/2025 5:53 PM
105	Cars etc come in all sizes now and the streets are already being infringed upon by adding trails etc to existing streets and the front yards and driveways are getting shorter and shorter and pretty soon we won't have anything left like S.Oak homes are now. If sidewalks etc are needed then they should have been added when they were first built. Future subdivisions should have sidewalks on both sides factored in and not taking away from the lot sizes.	10/11/2025 3:37 PM
106	Narrow streets mean less room for traffic either vehicle or pedestrian. If it's. Busier neighborhood narrow streets would not be good.	10/11/2025 11:32 AM
107	Because the street is for driving.	10/11/2025 8:12 AM
108	Narrow streets make it harder to navigate streets on foot or by bike. There can't be paths everywhere.	10/10/2025 8:39 PM
109	Narrower is not safer for large or commercial vehicles.	10/10/2025 8:25 PM
110	I need more information regarding how narrow and what the statistics are on improved safety.	10/10/2025 6:47 PM
111	emergency and support vehicles need that room in times of need	10/10/2025 4:57 PM
112	Parking for homeowners when hosting guests at their homes	10/10/2025 2:44 PM
113	Needs to be wide enough for parking at least on one side of the street.	10/10/2025 12:45 PM
114	Cedar St. downtown was made narrower, and it is TERRIBLE. Completely avoid the area now. Took away the wider driving lane to put in the stupid unnecessary planters and passenger can't even open their car doors all the way.	10/10/2025 8:58 AM
115	Fuxk no with the idiots and the retarded kids that already race up and down the streets as is u will be creating a destruction zone waiting to happen,	10/10/2025 8:55 AM
116	Narrow streets do not improve safety as I have seen first hand in the Metro very dangerous if parking on the street.	10/3/2025 5:13 PM
117	How does that improve safety?	10/3/2025 12:15 PM
118	The roads are already odd in Owatonna, I don't believe making them narrower would be safer, or add much value at all.	10/3/2025 9:12 AM
119	Unless narrower streets are accompanied by sidewalks and pedestrian space without reducing usable lot space.	10/2/2025 10:26 PM
120	Wider streets are safer for vehicles & bicycles & recreational vehicles	10/2/2025 8:17 PM
121	Narrow streets without sidewalks would NOT be safer for pedestrians.	10/2/2025 7:31 PM
122	I don't feel narrow streets improve safety at all!	10/2/2025 6:02 PM
123	Drive down Cedar Ave and see if the narrow street is good. We have way too much sidewalk and not enough street. It is not enjoyable driving down a narrow street and there is no reason why we need narrow streets in new developments.	10/2/2025 3:19 PM
124	First of all, bike lanes should be included. Point blank. Secondly, if the new streets are paved on a large scale, in my mind, I see the areas having the ability to, generations from now, build large-scale apartment buildings. If that were to be the case, of large-scale apartment buildings in now small-scale residential communities, I think that narrower residential streets would allow for much more pedestrian friendly communities in the long term.	10/2/2025 1:57 PM
125	Unable to park on narrow streets safely	10/2/2025 12:52 PM

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126	Off street parking could be an issue	10/2/2025 12:02 PM
127	Some places should also consider "speed Humps" for excessive speed straight aways.	10/2/2025 11:55 AM
128	The downtown is to narrow, 18th st is now narrower, not necessarily safer. Parked cars get hit. No narrow streets.	10/2/2025 11:42 AM
129	Owatonna is still a largely rural area. Narrowing the roads will make it difficult for trucks to drive through safely. Example being the Rose St/Grove roundabout. It is so narrow that even a basic pickup truck struggles to drive around the roundabout without hitting the curb.	10/2/2025 9:28 AM
130	Without sidewalks there needs to be space to keep pedestrians safe. Also with cars frequently parked along the street, the streets already feel very narrow.	10/2/2025 9:21 AM
131	People in MN drive larger vehicles. Trucks, SUV's etc. Making the streets narrower could potentially cause more accidents.	10/2/2025 9:20 AM
132	I support narrowing roads for the reasons mentioned in the question. Calming traffic makes use of roadways for biking feel safer and walking on sidewalks more pleasant. For examples, see how different it feels to walk along oak street vs. The river path.	10/1/2025 8:38 PM
133	A busy street should be wide for safety. Also, plan for the future, if that street may become a major throughway.	10/1/2025 8:32 PM
134	Currently some streets are barely passable with opposing traffic and parking on both sides of the street Example: Riverside north of Bridge and south of Glendale/Rose. This is especially true in winter months during hours where winter parking rules are not in effect.	10/1/2025 5:06 PM

Q14 Landscaping new developmentQuestion: For new multi-family, commercial and industrial development, what level of landscaping should be required:

Answered: 349 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
 Minimal	30.37%	106
 Moderate	54.73%	191
 Extensive	14.90%	52
TOTAL		349

#	PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING	DATE
1	To much money is wasted these days. If they don't want it, don't make them. We need to be more conservative.	11/1/2025 4:48 PM
2	Should look nice, and provide carbon dioxide reducers ans double as safety for beneficial wild life. But sometimes more is to much and over stimulating	10/31/2025 8:31 PM
3	Landscaping is waste of money.	10/31/2025 7:27 PM
4	minimum to moderate. Then the homeowner can further decide what kind of landscaping is desired. apts should be moderate to minimum.	10/31/2025 11:17 AM
5	On going upkeep adds cost to the small business owner who owns their building	10/31/2025 6:45 AM
6	landscaping adds cost and the more areas that have plantings and rock, they become more of less impervious. grass is the best for infiltrating water.	10/30/2025 10:01 AM
7	Why is it anyone else's business to say what someone has to have in front of their business? It should be up to the individual business of what look they are looking for.	10/30/2025 9:34 AM

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8	That is the property owner's choice	10/30/2025 7:14 AM
9	We need more trees and bushes for better air quality	10/29/2025 11:51 PM
10	Landscaping is a personal preference. Even with minimal landscaping, I believe it's more important that whatever landscaping is used, is well maintained.	10/29/2025 3:23 PM
11	The government controls way too much of our lives already.	10/29/2025 2:38 PM
12	Aesthetics	10/29/2025 2:20 PM
13	Helps ensure we avoid complete industrialized look/suburban vs. urban.	10/29/2025 1:07 AM
14	Some plant life is important, but too much can be expensive.	10/28/2025 9:50 PM
15	There's not enough qualified people available to take care of extensive landscaping. Keep it minimal and simple	10/28/2025 5:13 PM
16	Best part of Owatonna is all the mature trees. Make it green to make it more beautiful	10/28/2025 10:11 AM
17	Landscaping helps with heat dispersal. Less asphalt, less heat reflection.	10/26/2025 5:52 PM
18	Less is more. Downtown is a great example you planted to many shrubs in the garden boxes and they are not well kept.	10/22/2025 7:02 PM
19	Landscaping is important to keep our city beautiful and having a more natural and welcoming feeling	10/22/2025 6:29 PM
20	Landscaping should have a minimum percentage of native plantings: trees, shrubs, or perennials	10/22/2025 10:15 AM
21	More restrictions will limit new developments.	10/22/2025 9:48 AM
22	Green area makes buildings look more pleasant	10/22/2025 9:24 AM
23	It's more appealing and esthetic to the rest of the community.	10/22/2025 2:45 AM
24	I think moderate is appropriate. It's more than the bare minimum but also not as heavy as an extensive landscape. I think moderate is the happy medium and also supports planting of new trees and supporting our ecosystem without breaking the bank.	10/21/2025 9:39 PM
25	Lowest cost and maintenance	10/21/2025 8:03 PM
26	Landscape toward environmental friendly needs. X amount of trees per sq ft	10/21/2025 7:57 PM
27	If you have extensive landscaping, you attract a higher quality of people and business within the area, but that also comes with an increased in cost to an area where there isn't a lot of money to be spent.	10/21/2025 6:15 PM
28	You'll attract businesses to the city by keeping reasonable regulations and cost.	10/21/2025 5:30 PM
29	Less for owners to take care of. With a lot of landscaping it would not be kept up.	10/21/2025 4:37 PM
30	Too much landscaping requires a lot of upkeep which may not be done resulting in overgrown spaces. Too little landscaping gives a sterile appearance and promotes runoff.	10/21/2025 3:40 PM
31	Who cares? We shouldn't be allowed to dictate how these developers spend their money.	10/21/2025 2:33 PM
32	Landscaping requires added cost and maintenance to small businesses. The addition of trees is always a plus to keep heat down.	10/21/2025 12:26 PM
33	I think landscaping should be up to the owner, not the city.	10/21/2025 12:24 PM
34	Bushes take too much space and upkeep. Trees are a necessity of life.	10/21/2025 12:15 PM
35	Trees reduced cooling costs	10/21/2025 10:38 AM
36	Good for the environment and mental health	10/21/2025 10:28 AM
37	More green is appealing; too much can distract from commerce.	10/21/2025 8:32 AM
38	Too many new developments remain an eyesore for years until trees and landscaping have grown in. Starting with more would help improve the aesthetic immediately.	10/21/2025 7:22 AM

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39	Up to individual	10/21/2025 5:58 AM
40	Not many places stay long or go well	10/20/2025 10:45 PM
41	Landscaping is so expensive. Many families trying to build can't afford to do a lot of landscaping.	10/20/2025 9:39 PM
42	I believe there should be a level of low maintenance on landscaping. The main thing with landscaping currently in Owatonna is anything typically beside hanging plants are shrubs and long plant grass which is nice but does not add a pop of color for downtown and or other walk ways	10/20/2025 9:13 PM
43	Implementing extensive landscaping is crucial for creating vibrant and sustainable communities. This approach not only enhances the visual appeal of the area but also promotes community interaction by incorporating amenities such as benches and bike racks, encouraging outdoor activities and providing spaces for social engagement. Furthermore, extensive landscaping supports environmental sustainability through the use of native plants and green infrastructure, improving biodiversity and aiding in stormwater management. By fostering a more inviting and functional environment, extensive landscaping can increase property values and attract businesses and residents alike, ultimately benefiting the city's growth and quality of life. Investing in this level of landscaping demonstrates a commitment to creating a livable, resilient urban landscape that meets the needs of the community.	10/20/2025 8:47 PM
44	We need to keep green spaces somewhere. We need to plant trees to give back what was torn down to create it in the first place. It also will cut down on hot cement and asphalt in the summers. It will also help beautify the city instead of turning it into a concrete jungle.	10/20/2025 8:38 PM
45	You can always do more, but if you have to do more, it is likely to not be maintained as well.	10/20/2025 8:21 PM
46	It is a nice balance between nothing and full coverage	10/20/2025 8:14 PM
47	I could go either way, primarily, there needs to be greenery to reduce the concrete heat effect.	10/20/2025 7:40 PM
48	Save the bees dawg	10/20/2025 7:40 PM
49	Assists with keeping pollinators in the area	10/20/2025 7:30 PM
50	You are dirtying up our town with giant buildings at least put nature all around them.	10/20/2025 6:56 PM
51	If it's too much they may not take good care of it	10/20/2025 6:37 PM
52	Curb appeal makes the city look better overall	10/20/2025 6:06 PM
53	Just enough to make it look nice	10/20/2025 5:33 PM
54	Stop regulating our lives!! Let the private property owners decide what they do.	10/20/2025 5:19 PM
55	Moderators nice. Minimal not enough. Extensive too much	10/20/2025 4:20 PM
56	I love the looks of this or the moderate would do. They look more well kept.	10/20/2025 3:27 PM
57	We do not need more ugly in this city.	10/20/2025 3:07 PM
58	It looks nicer. More greenery and trees keeps the area cooler in the summer. Visually it looks friendly and not like an ugly industrial eyesore.	10/20/2025 2:48 PM
59	I believe business costs should be kept at a minimum. There's already way to many rules and regulations, not to mention the illegal raping that property owners already get on taxes in this state.	10/20/2025 2:46 PM
60	Cost of maintaining landscaping, why regulate new development more than necessary?	10/20/2025 2:42 PM
61	Would look the best.	10/20/2025 2:26 PM
62	It gives the property a more complete look.	10/20/2025 2:11 PM
63	Some landscaping helps lift the spirit while working or living in that space	10/20/2025 2:05 PM
64	Require too much and it looks like shit after half a decade when it's overgrown and weeds everywhere	10/20/2025 1:56 PM
65	Ease of setting business name, Less maintenance	10/20/2025 1:43 PM

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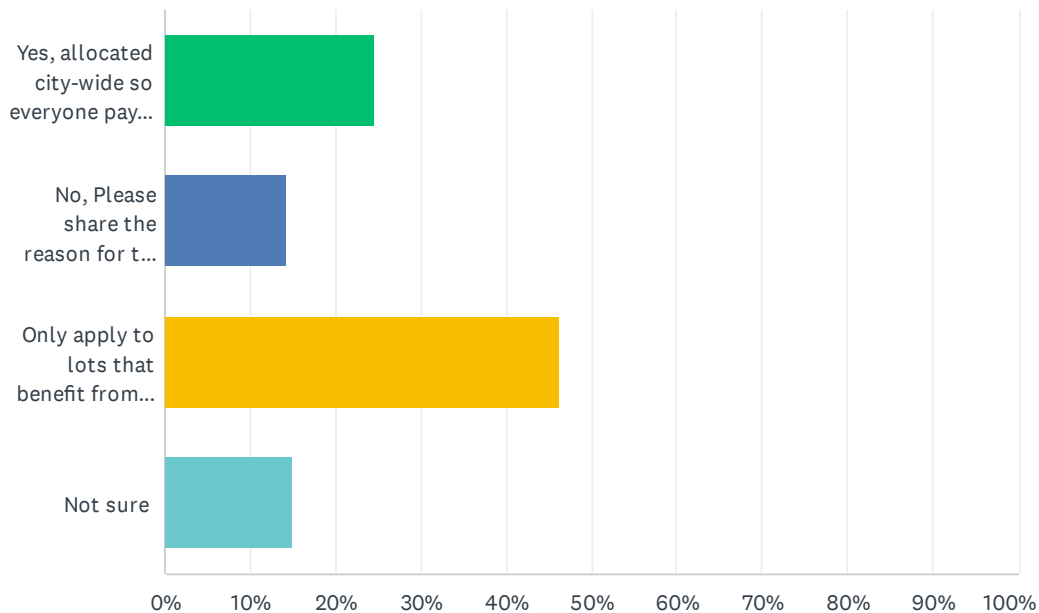
66	You want it to look nice without being overgrown.	10/20/2025 1:37 PM
67	Create a small amount of green space helps absorb heat and breaks up impervious spaces.	10/20/2025 1:34 PM
68	When taking away Greenspace it should be replaced in some capacity to improve air quality and as beautify the new building. Having more Greenspace breaks up the amount of buildings you see and is better for mental health	10/20/2025 1:31 PM
69	Save the bees earth and better for flooding and rain	10/20/2025 1:23 PM
70	It's aesthetically pleasing to have some, but more can get expensive.	10/16/2025 9:22 PM
71	Its clean, and welcoming	10/15/2025 2:10 PM
72	The expense for upkeep. What will be required if there is no one maintaining the extensive example? Who will police the trashy looking unkept extensive example?	10/14/2025 8:58 AM
73	I think that a better way to approach this is to create a multi-tiered incentive to bigger and better landscaping (like rebates) versus creating rules & laws	10/14/2025 8:45 AM
74	There needs to be something about maintaining the landscaping too. After bushes and shrubs become overgrown covering signs and make the place look run down.	10/13/2025 1:21 PM
75	I think adding to many requirements could limit business desire to build. Would like to see district by district.	10/12/2025 12:54 PM
76	The landscape should look equal to the building. Not just dropping sod on the dirt and calling it good. More effort should be made. Add a couple trees and flowers for the birds and butterflies. After all the building is sitting on the land where they lived.	10/12/2025 7:29 AM
77	I think there should be some landscaping, green is good! I also realize it is expensive so moderate seems fair.	10/11/2025 6:41 PM
78	Don't need to overdue the landscaping,less is more and the things planted have room to grow and thrive.	10/11/2025 3:37 PM
79	Nobody cares about landscaping. This is the silliest question I could have imagined. Focus this energy into supporting child welfare or something helpful not policing LaNdScaPinG	10/11/2025 8:12 AM
80	Why put extra cost? Open green space is important. Especially for places kids live. It would be nice to see a push towards landscapes that benefit the environment. Maybe insentives?	10/10/2025 8:39 PM
81	I do not want to live in a city of ugly concrete boxes without greenery. I would prefer extensive, but that's not a practical requirement for developers.	10/10/2025 6:47 PM
82	Landscaping adds value to the property.	10/10/2025 4:50 PM
83	Landscaping is great but should be up to the business/ developer	10/10/2025 1:01 PM
84	If landscaping includes human-centric amenities like benches, bike racks, etc. then those should be required in certain locations, but large landscape/planter areas with excessive trees/plantings are not needed.	10/10/2025 10:12 AM
85	some added obstacles might reduce vehicle collision with potential structure? Nothing extensive even though it looks nice.	10/10/2025 10:05 AM
86	Landscaping is expensive, and if there is too strict requirements, it could deter someone from being able to build and expand.	10/10/2025 9:35 AM
87	Ur already destroying the wildlife homes might as well give back	10/10/2025 8:55 AM
88	If you plan to put up a building that houses these things then make the curb appeal as nice as possible.	10/10/2025 8:32 AM
89	They could be dressed up a little more without costing a lot	10/9/2025 10:11 AM
90	I think this may difficult to codify, but more thought is need when it comes to landscaping at new buildings. Most new construction projects in the last 10 years are bare when it comes to plant life. This pushes out fauna and promotes a heat dessert.	10/4/2025 6:07 PM
91	We should be making up for the ugly concrete jungles that are getting constructed.	10/4/2025 5:50 PM

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92	Looks better	10/3/2025 5:51 PM
93	Due to the cost of upkeep of the landscaping	10/3/2025 5:13 PM
94	Some trees and landscaping should always be required.	10/3/2025 9:12 AM
95	Some landscaping keeps areas looking nice while requiring too much can lack maintenance and look worse long term.	10/2/2025 10:26 PM
96	Cleaner look	10/2/2025 8:17 PM
97	Once a lower standard is allowed there is no raising the expectation... no room, too much hard surface. Landscaping makes for a much friendlier face.	10/2/2025 7:31 PM
98	If we are going to continue to destroy where the wildlife lived for millions of years before humans came along, we must to our part to replace that natural habitat as much as possible. This also reduces hot zones from tarmac, asphalt and concrete.	10/2/2025 5:02 PM
99	To keep the cost down, it already costs so much money to build, and businesses are the ones taking all the risk. They are economic drivers that pay for everything in our town. Let's not set them up for failure.	10/2/2025 3:19 PM
100	We need to make it apparent that we care about our climate. As long as the extensive landscaping is native, and supports the local ecosystem, residents in the community will be much more apt to take up native landscaping of their own.	10/2/2025 1:57 PM
101	Developers should complete a project and landscaping is part of building	10/2/2025 12:02 PM
102	More greenery makes less of a heat sink. Every little bit helps.	10/2/2025 11:55 AM
103	Maintenance and upkeep	10/2/2025 11:42 AM
104	people need to also care for the property's landscape	10/2/2025 11:00 AM
105	Clean, kept-up landscaping. Minimal. More isn't always clean.	10/2/2025 10:42 AM
106	Whatever you put in needs to be Maintained. I would rather have minimal landscaping well maintained than an extensive one not maintained.	10/2/2025 9:59 AM
107	Too much concrete isn't good for the environment and looks bad once maintenance starts to slip. Moderate landscaping that is easy/inexpensive to maintain will keep businesses looking the best and be better fke the environment/mental health.	10/2/2025 9:28 AM
108	Native plants should be required.	10/2/2025 9:21 AM
109	Walking along businesses without shade or buffering from car infrastructure is some of the worst experiences as a pedestrian. By requiring a moderate landscape it would make entries to businesses more pleasant.	10/1/2025 8:38 PM
110	Moderate, depending on the location.	10/1/2025 8:32 PM

Q15 Development & Impact Fees Code Reference: For new development, not currently standardized in code but fees for infrastructure upgrades (e.g., sewer, roads, parks) are under consideration. Question: For new development, should the City add development and impact fees to help fund infrastructure upgrades and expansions (e.g., sewer treatment, storm water, roads, parks)?

Answered: 348 Skipped: 56



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes, allocated city-wide so everyone pays for improvements		24.43%	85
No, Please share the reason for the answer below		14.37%	50
Only apply to lots that benefit from the upgrades		46.26%	161
Not sure		14.94%	52
TOTAL			348

#	PLEASE SHARE YOUR REASONING	DATE
1	The city should save/ budget for this. We already pay enough taxes.	11/1/2025 4:50 PM
2	Currently every one is over charged, over taxed we need to be concerdate of the current and future economy. People who benefit from the upgrades in that area are the ones that should be charged.	10/31/2025 8:34 PM
3	How developments should be responsibility upgraded. Normal maintenance of infrastructure should be shared across the community	10/31/2025 11:18 AM
4	Taxes already to high...new development should factor in cost. Maybe low interest loans from the city	10/31/2025 6:47 AM

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5	To high priced already	10/30/2025 12:46 PM
6	These fees just drive up the costs of lots, and therefore the costs of homes, which people already complain are too expensive in Owatonna. Additionally, builders already pay a sewer hookup fee that was sold as a fee for sewer infrastructure and sewer plant upgrades when implemented.	10/30/2025 10:04 AM
7	The area that needs the fix should carry the cost, not the whole city.	10/30/2025 9:35 AM
8	This needs a lot more information and clarification before any recommendation can be made.	10/29/2025 10:51 PM
9	The businesses should have to pay for it.	10/29/2025 2:58 PM
10	We pay an enormous amount of taxes that are spent on the dumbest of shit. Spend the money on the shit that needs to get fixed. And fire the worthless employees that drive around and do nothing all day. There has gotta be at least a dozen.	10/29/2025 2:40 PM
11	Those whom already have the improvements have already paid their fair share.	10/29/2025 2:21 PM
12	Some degree of enhanced localized impact and citywide. Those nearest benefit most but city as a whole benefits from solid infrastructure just not as much as those closest. Avoids stark differences between the areas willing to spend and other areas.	10/29/2025 1:10 AM
13	Positives and negatives both ways. Need more info.	10/26/2025 5:54 PM
14	City should take care of the cost or developers will not choose to build in Owatonna. However city needs to overhaul our current budget because our property taxes are far too high for what the city has to offer.	10/22/2025 7:04 PM
15	I don't understand this question. The City would charge property owners a fee if infrastructure needed to be updated? Maybe if it's an elective update not required for health or safety reasons	10/22/2025 6:31 PM
16	It should be up to the area to support. If you want something above and beyond. Pay for it!	10/22/2025 5:17 PM
17	That will only limit building in Owatonna further	10/22/2025 9:49 AM
18	You want development? Are you nuts?	10/22/2025 8:03 AM
19	We party enough in property taxes the way it is. If the city wants growth, that's the investment they need to make.	10/22/2025 2:46 AM
20	Only the new development should pay all fees associated with their development. Never the entire city, who came up with that???	10/21/2025 8:08 PM
21	Why increase the ever so growing taxes on people who already live paycheck to paycheck. How about relocate the taxes you take from the people and use them wisely.	10/21/2025 6:18 PM
22	Too much money is already being collected. A standardized fee with normal usage fees is all that should apply.	10/21/2025 12:16 PM
23	Property taxes are high enough	10/21/2025 12:13 PM
24	developer should pay	10/21/2025 8:33 AM
25	With the current cost of living, most people are already struggling to afford housing and basic expenses. Adding more fees to new development would only make homes less affordable.	10/21/2025 7:49 AM
26	If a business wants to upgrade it is their responsibility. But if city wants them to then the chamber or or city funding should pay for it.	10/21/2025 6:58 AM
27	Cost of living based on taxes and fees are already the highest in southern mn	10/20/2025 10:33 PM
28	Assuming taxes would increase. Taxes are getting hard to afford for us as a single family home already and we don't have that big of home.	10/20/2025 10:04 PM
29	If I pay my share on my street then I'm not paying for thousands of other streets as well. It's asinine as we're already taxed to death as it is!	10/20/2025 9:26 PM
30	Everyone should have to equalize the bill when it comes to typical care within city projects however the issue of you were to separate everything down and make only the people using it	10/20/2025 9:16 PM

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have to pay tha could get costly if per say in winter the same water main breaks multi times a year and or if the area which the repairs need to be maintained are low income

31	This approach ensures that developers pay for the specific infrastructure improvements their projects require, promoting accountability and reducing the financial burden on taxpayers. By focusing on those directly impacted, we can create a fairer system that supports responsible growth while protecting the interests of existing residents.	10/20/2025 8:50 PM
32	The whole town already pays for the fees in taxes	10/20/2025 8:32 PM
33	New single family housing hasn't been developed on a large scale in the 13+ years we have lived here. If it were, if we were growing new neighborhoods, it might be different.	10/20/2025 8:23 PM
34	developers who profit shuld pay	10/20/2025 7:49 PM
35	People who don't like to improve the town along with the rest of the taxpayers can go find another town that doesn't do improvements and live there in whatever slum they prefer, but gaining the benefit without paying for it (all together or none together) doesn't work for me.	10/20/2025 7:42 PM
36	There is a constant need for updating infrastructure, it should be a shared responsibility between city and developer to update as needed.	10/20/2025 7:41 PM
37	No fees should be assessed as the city's tax base goes up to cover these cost.	10/20/2025 7:12 PM
38	It's only fair	10/20/2025 6:56 PM
39	Not fair for people living on a fixed income to have to pay for someone else's upgrades	10/20/2025 6:38 PM
40	Yes - however the city will still raise taxes to curb these items unfortunately	10/20/2025 6:08 PM
41	Again, Owatonna already over regulates and over taxes. Stop it! There is a reason nobody builds here!	10/20/2025 5:21 PM
42	Need more information on what defines new development	10/20/2025 4:22 PM
43	I honestly think taxes are getting out of hand for what most can afford.	10/20/2025 3:29 PM
44	I do not see the need for current taxpayers to fund developments. Charge the developers.	10/20/2025 3:09 PM
45	If you want it, you should pay for it. I've got my own stuff to pay for already.	10/20/2025 2:48 PM
46	Do special assessments for the properties benefiting from the improvement so the development is self funded. I do not want to pay for a new road when mine is falling apart.	10/20/2025 2:45 PM
47	Isn't that what we pay property taxes for? Develop then tax, don't hinder growth in the front end.	10/20/2025 2:43 PM
48	We're already taxed enough.	10/20/2025 2:36 PM
49	Are these things not covered by taxes?	10/20/2025 2:34 PM
50	Taxes already pay for that stuff.	10/20/2025 2:27 PM
51	We all live here and benefit in some way from infrastructure improvements and so we should all share in the cost.	10/20/2025 2:13 PM
52	Businesses should pay for their own upgrades. That is why they have profits. Businesses should pay their employees. Pay for their own building when they purchase them. Pay for their own upgrades. Owatonna just needs to stop requiring unreasonable laws that make it impossible for businesses and residents to upgrade.	10/20/2025 2:09 PM
53	We are taxed and made to pay fees enough. We dont need to keep adding on payment after payment	10/20/2025 1:45 PM
54	Creates a burdensome cost to small business and homeowners. If the city can use TIF for big business, why add more onto the small infrastructure that can make our community great	10/20/2025 1:36 PM
55	We all will use, we all should support the projects.	10/20/2025 1:34 PM
56	This question is too vague. If development does occur, which it will, the only options are 1 and 3. Either all pay for it or only those benefitting. Also is this regarding commercial or residential?	10/16/2025 9:32 PM

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If residential, are you talking single family or medium and high density? Homeowners shouldn't be paying for infrastructure needed for apartments.

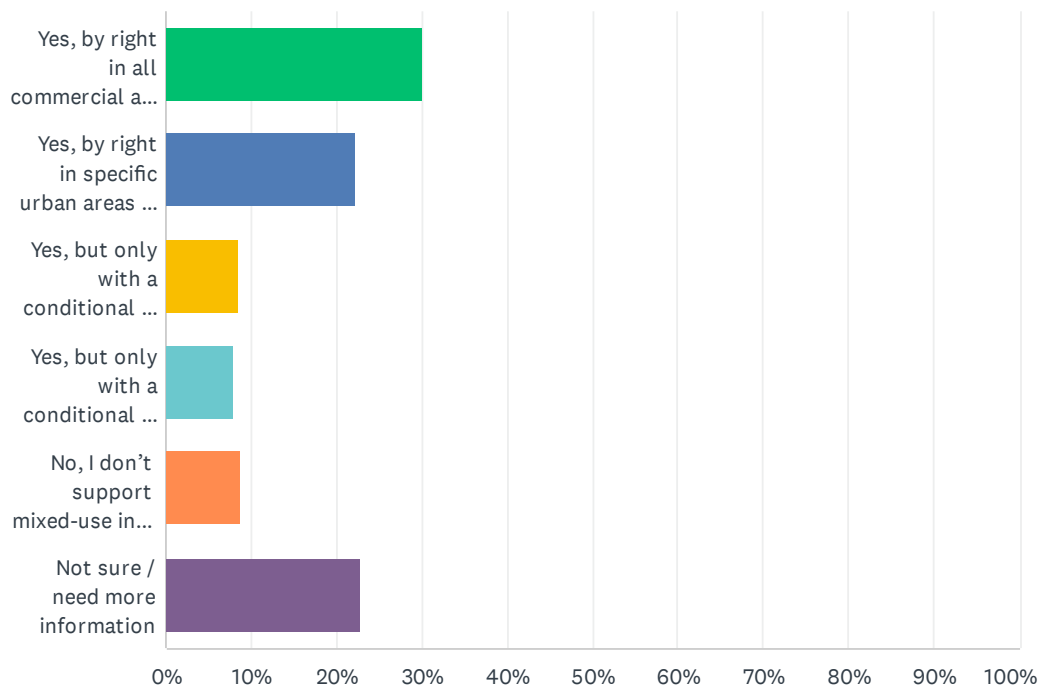
57	It's unclear what classifies as new development - Commercial? Residential? Apartments? Other?	10/16/2025 9:30 PM
58	You already have WAC/SAC and Stormwater must be taken care of by developer and there is park dedication by developer. This question is only for the people that don't know how development or the City code works.	10/15/2025 8:31 AM
59	There are plenty of benefits the community and city gain from new developments. The impact from city growth should not be 100% on the developer or business owner. The more the cost the less the developments.	10/14/2025 10:37 AM
60	I believe developers, especially large out of town ones use too many "programs already. They should all pay their "fair share" in their own development whether it's a one up build or 100 units.	10/14/2025 8:48 AM
61	Should be applied to new development converting undeveloped or agricultural lands. Should not be applied to every plat.	10/14/2025 8:10 AM
62	Everyone drives on most of the roads. All roads are the cities responsibilities. A small tax evenly distributed impacts a homeowner far less than a surprise assessment of multiple thousands of dollars, which in today's climate very well could make home ownership unaffordable. Would this also help the city be able to fix more roads more quickly than a few blocks each year and many roads are deteriorating quickly.	10/13/2025 1:25 PM
63	The people who are doing upgrades should be paying this, not the residents of Owatonna who don't benefit from this. Make the business building or upgrading pay for this.	10/12/2025 7:31 AM
64	I would need more information. We have high taxes, more details.	10/11/2025 6:44 PM
65	We already pay taxes for this. Gas tax property tax sales tax. Learn to work with in your budget like everyone else has to	10/10/2025 11:31 PM
66	we were hit with a huge bill from work this summer. It really stinks. This could put some people over the edge. Maybe these fees should be applied for all new infrastructure not just new developments.	10/10/2025 8:41 PM
67	Needs more details about costs per lot and city-wide cost sharing total costs	10/10/2025 8:26 PM
68	Will this impact development with additional fees added?	10/10/2025 6:49 PM
69	Depends on the amount of the fees. Building and development is already so expensive - would this inhibit them from coming here over another community that didn't have the fees?	10/10/2025 3:28 PM
70	Stay out of my pocket	10/10/2025 1:02 PM
71	The city should be paying for it by themselves as we city people already give enough	10/10/2025 8:57 AM
72	need to be able to see a benefit from it	10/9/2025 10:11 AM
73	No new fees	10/5/2025 10:04 AM
74	developer should pay and not the existing taxpayer	10/5/2025 8:49 AM
75	Make the developer pay it	10/3/2025 5:52 PM
76	Sounds like the city just looking for money, but it will never go to anything	10/3/2025 12:16 PM
77	Need more information, more transparency, to make an informed decision.	10/2/2025 5:03 PM
78	Developing raw land is extremely expensive, and builders will not build if they can't make a profit. They are already risking millions of dollars. Put yourself in their position and think, will this help Owatonna grow?	10/2/2025 3:37 PM
79	I believe that the developers of the new developments would be much more keen to develop in the area if the city, and its residents, were to support them. However, I think that in large-scale development I believe that certain aspects of the development process should be open to community voices. If there were to be a new development, and a new park added in the area, the residents of the community as a whole should have a voice on the decision making process.	10/2/2025 2:00 PM

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80	Developers will just pass on the fees to residents anyway.	10/2/2025 11:58 AM
81	The city is asking for an awful lot right now	10/2/2025 11:43 AM
82	keep the expense to the expansion/upgrade of the city to those who benefit.	10/2/2025 11:01 AM
83	Taxes are high enough. Those who benefit should pay.	10/2/2025 10:01 AM
84	I think there can be some cost sharing but based on how much each citizen benefits from the project. For example a park can be used by everyone, but expanding water lines really only benefits citizens near the project.	10/1/2025 8:58 PM
85	People in Owatonna should not have to -pay for someone else's upgrade.	10/1/2025 8:34 PM

Q16 Mixed-Use Buildings Code Reference: §157.020–157.027: Currently, Owatonna allows mixed-uses within the same building (like apartments above retail) in the B-3 district only, and allows residential and commercial buildings on the same parcel in B-2 and B-3 districts only. Question: Would you support allowing mixed-use development that included a mix of residential and commercial uses only—either within one building (e.g., apartments above retail) or in separate buildings on the same parcel—by right in more urban areas or neighborhood nodes, if design standards and conditions were in place to reduce impacts (such as noise, traffic, or parking)?

Answered: 330 Skipped: 74

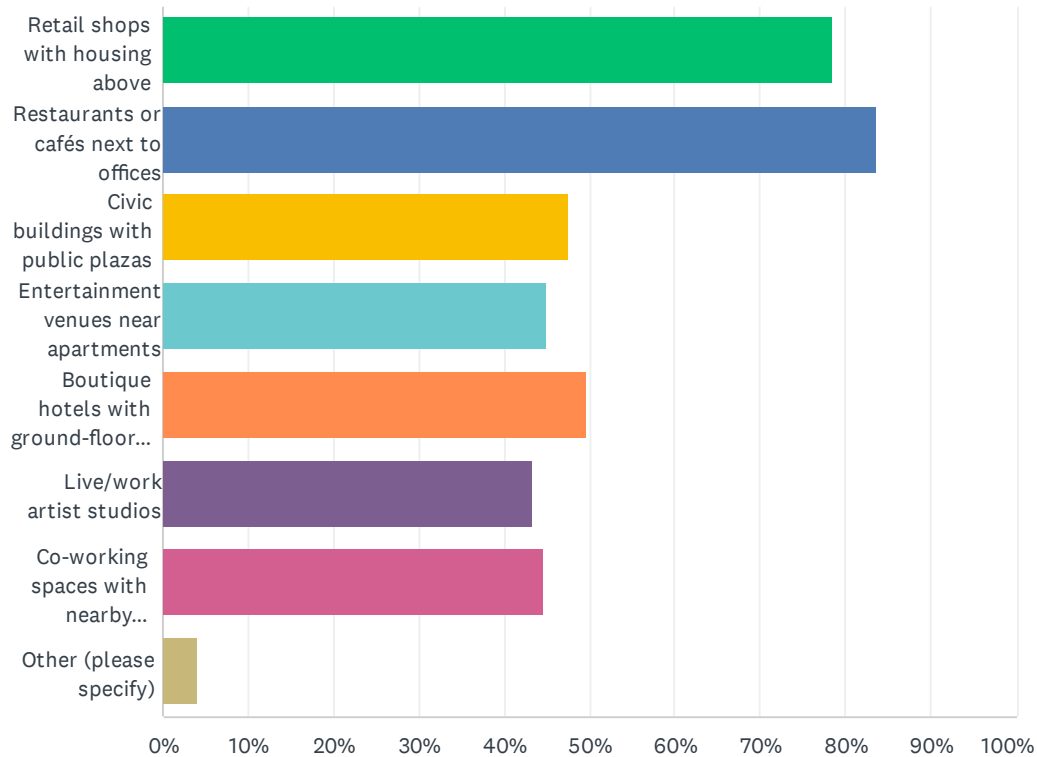


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, by right in all commercial and residential districts (district-wide)- with strict design standards and conditions to minimize impacts	30.00%	99
Yes, by right in specific urban areas and neighborhood nodes only—with strict design standards and conditions to minimize impacts	22.12%	73
Yes, but only with a conditional use permit in all commercial and residential districts (district-wide)	8.48%	28
Yes, but only with a conditional use permit in specific urban areas or neighborhood nodes	7.88%	26
No, I don't support mixed-use in these areas	8.79%	29
Not sure / need more information	22.73%	75
TOTAL		330

Q17 Desired Mix of Uses What kinds of mixed uses would you like to see in downtown Owatonna?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 88



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Retail shops with housing above	78.48%	248
Restaurants or cafés next to offices	83.54%	264
Civic buildings with public plazas	47.47%	150
Entertainment venues near apartments	44.94%	142
Boutique hotels with ground-floor retail	49.68%	157
Live/work artist studios	43.35%	137
Co-working spaces with nearby amenities	44.62%	141
Other (please specify)	4.11%	13
Total Respondents: 316		

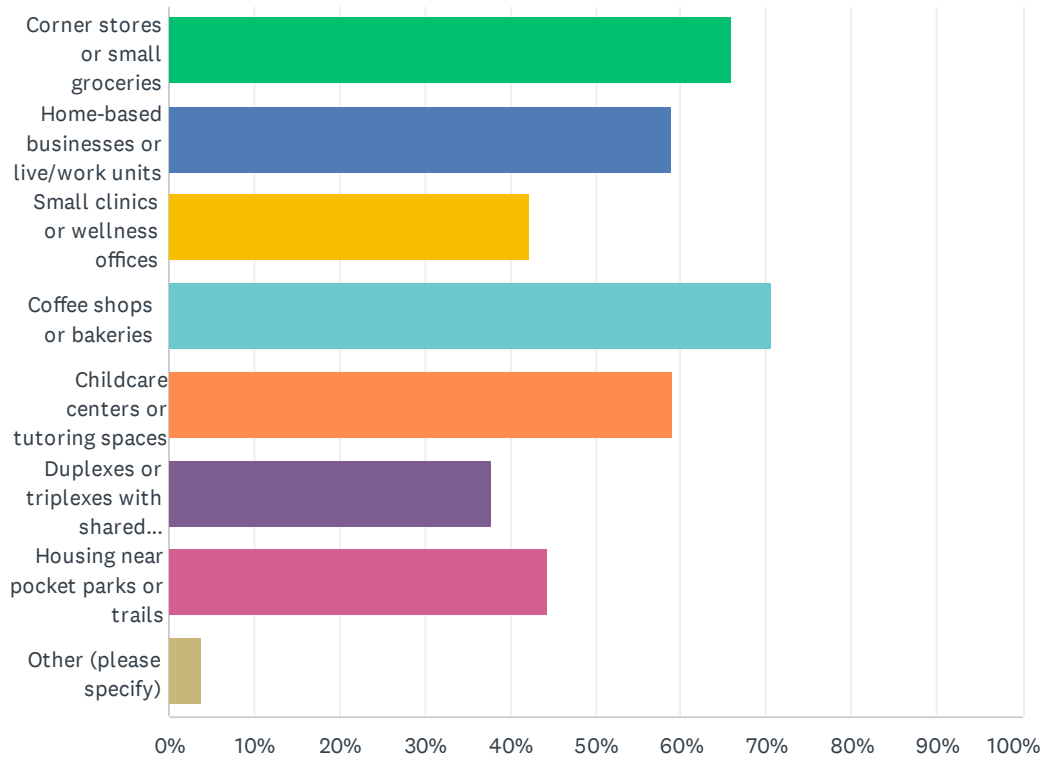
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	business should be business not mixed with home, it looks cluttered	10/30/2025 9:37 AM
2	Couldn't care less	10/26/2025 6:31 AM
3	A YMCA or like building	10/24/2025 12:26 PM

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4	Any!	10/22/2025 5:19 PM
5	Entertainment places for fun like how we have the arcade	10/20/2025 10:56 PM
6	Childcare (infant through middle school, with tutoring during after-school hours) with offices above and nearby	10/20/2025 8:54 PM
7	Retail shops with studios that could be rented out for classes.	10/20/2025 8:42 PM
8	For the downtown area, all the above should be allowed.	10/20/2025 5:28 PM
9	YMCA or something similar	10/20/2025 3:37 PM
10	Remember we are not the metro	10/20/2025 2:34 PM
11	Strip clubs, swinger houses, something fun and sexy for adults that isn't just bars,	10/10/2025 9:00 AM
12	Convention space, it would bring a lot of traffic to the downtown.	10/2/2025 3:52 PM
13	I avoid downtown due to lack of parking and very narrow streets. Since I am disabled there is nowhere to park that I can access the downtown safely.	10/2/2025 11:46 AM

Q18 What types of small-scale mixed uses would feel appropriate in neighborhood areas outside downtown?

Answered: 313 Skipped: 91



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Corner stores or small groceries		65.81%	206
Home-based businesses or live/work units		58.79%	184
Small clinics or wellness offices		42.17%	132
Coffee shops or bakeries		70.61%	221
Childcare centers or tutoring spaces		59.11%	185
Duplexes or triplexes with shared courtyards		37.70%	118
Housing near pocket parks or trails		44.41%	139
Other (please specify)		3.83%	12
Total Respondents: 313			

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Couldn't care less	10/26/2025 6:31 AM
2	Small groceries with no tobacco, alcohol, lottery tickets, or cannabis. Improve food access without feeding substance use and addiction!	10/22/2025 6:35 PM

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3	Adjacent to neighborhoods but not in neighborhoods.	10/21/2025 3:49 PM
4	A YMCA	10/20/2025 8:42 PM
5	No opinion	10/20/2025 5:28 PM
6	None of the above	10/20/2025 4:23 PM
7	None.	10/16/2025 9:37 PM
8	None	10/16/2025 9:36 PM
9	Mixed use should be located in commercial areas only, not stuck in neighborhoods. This adds additional traffic to quiet neighborhoods and invites unwanted guests, especially if business leave and buildings sit empty. A new designated commercial area near the high school with food, gas, grocery could make sense. Higher density housing or mixed use could make sense like that such that people can walk to amenities. Scattering amenity makes it hard for people to get what they need.	10/13/2025 1:32 PM
10	Strip clubs, swinger houses	10/10/2025 9:00 AM
11	Essentially, you have Kwik Trips that covers a lot of this.	10/2/2025 3:52 PM
12	Not sure. Need more details.	10/1/2025 8:36 PM

Q19 Other Recommendations Do you have any suggestions to improve the zoning and subdivision codes?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 355

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Noise, parking and traffic reduction I think is vital. It's also highly important to consider winter plowing in the road designs.	10/31/2025 8:40 PM
2	Don't know where this matters but the south side of town needs improvement. Residents have to drive to the north or central side for nearly everything. We need more fast food and shopping. So much wasted buildings. (Old tire building)	10/31/2025 7:30 PM
3	Stop spending money like its water, taxes are to high in this town. We are not the Twin Cities area for pete sakes.	10/30/2025 9:37 AM
4	Building permits and inspections continue to be obstacles in this community. Policies are based on local interpretation of codes with no real way of appealing a decision. It is a do what you are told or you won't be allowed to do anything system.	10/29/2025 11:04 PM
5	no	10/28/2025 5:16 PM
6	No	10/26/2025 5:57 PM
7	A gas station on the East side of town.	10/24/2025 12:26 PM
8	Stricter restrictions for alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis zoning. Keep these drugs away from youth!	10/22/2025 6:35 PM
9	Stop the BS, listen to the people	10/22/2025 5:19 PM
10	Remove unnecessary restrictions that allows for more growth	10/22/2025 9:52 AM
11	Not at this time	10/21/2025 9:48 PM
12	Consider traffic flow thru neighborhoods. Especially unexpected use of neighborhood streets by large numbers of vehicles taking shortcuts to get to businesses on the edge of neighborhoods.	10/21/2025 3:49 PM
13	Traffic considerations are important. Owatonna has some very strange traffic situations.	10/21/2025 8:35 AM
14	If you change zoning make it logical. Quit taxing the working class. If stuff changes people who live in apartments should have to pay a tax of some sort too	10/21/2025 7:02 AM
15	I would support anything that helps make more affordable homes for young people trying to purchase their first house, it appears currently anything under \$170,000 in Owatonna is a handyman special at best	10/21/2025 6:40 AM
16	Start enforcing the codes we already have. There's dog poop all over the boulevards, huge political signs in the boulevard in residential districts, and unrestricted noise from unapproved home businesses.	10/21/2025 12:07 AM
17	Allow garage sale signs to be posted temporally	10/20/2025 10:45 PM
18	Let people do as they please,they pay more than enough in this small town and deserve to be left alone.	10/20/2025 9:29 PM
19	No	10/20/2025 7:44 PM
20	Allow less giant apartments and more homes for people. We want to own property not rent forever.	10/20/2025 6:59 PM
21	I support measures that will make it more attractive for small and/or local builders and businesses to invest in our community. In other words, stop making their lives miserable with new codes and regulations.	10/20/2025 5:28 PM

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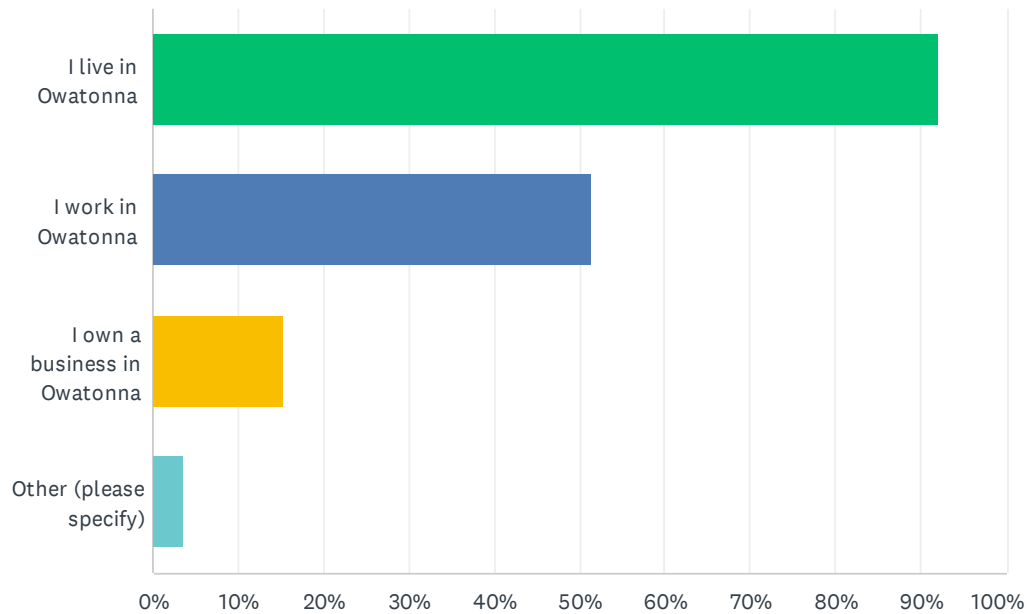
22	No	10/20/2025 4:23 PM
23	With the EV parking spots, it would be really helpful to add "tow-away" signs for non-EV vehicles—especially at the high school. I've never been able to park there, and almost every time the spots are taken by gas vehicles. Please consider adding signage; it would make a big difference for EV drivers. It's kind of like an EV owner parking in front of a gas pump—frustrating for those who actually need to charge.	10/20/2025 3:37 PM
24	Use logic when applying. There are any number of dangerous access points to businesses which have been allowed in the past. Being afraid of being sued is not sound government practice,	10/20/2025 3:13 PM
25	Lighten up. People pay through their asses already to live. A lot of companies started in someone's garage. Apple is a great example. People don't even want to try because there's so many rules and regulations and they can be litigated right out of their ideas and dreams. Government wasn't created in this country to rule the people. I still believe in allodial land. It's in the MN Constitution. Art. 1, Sec.15. What happened to freedom? Oh, but something is ok if I pay someone? Sounds like a scam.	10/20/2025 2:58 PM
26	I'd like to see more restrictions on door-to-door sales/vendors (aside from kids school fundraisers), and limits on religious door-to-door. Political door-to-door and signs should not be allowed.	10/20/2025 2:42 PM
27	More handicap parking in the current downtown area. The new design is Aweful and a major reason why so many small shops have closed. Our downtown is a disgrace to the elderly who helped build this town.	10/20/2025 2:34 PM
28	Please, control spending. Owatonna has a reputation of having high property taxes, even in Minnesota which is already a high tax state. People just can't afford to live here so they might work here, but drive 15-30 miles to live in more affordable towns.	10/16/2025 9:37 PM
29	Perform a complete audit to cut spending and taxes. Nothing in this survey means anything if residents cannot afford to live here. Amenities are not worth the exorbitant tax dollars.	10/16/2025 9:36 PM
30	Please add a minor subdivision code that allows platting of existing parcels without review of existing utilities, grading, or stormwater impacts.	10/14/2025 8:14 AM
31	Mixed use nodes in other parts of the state/country are currently failing. Businesses left and can't be filled and residential areas are sitting empty with these kinds of businesses in foreclosure waiting to be tore down. That would be an eye sore for Owatonna and detrimental for homeowners in those areas as it drops their property values.	10/13/2025 1:32 PM
32	more parks and trails and trail connections in neighborhoods and developments, both residential and commercial	10/11/2025 7:04 PM
33	Enforce current rules in entire city	10/11/2025 5:55 PM
34	Please ask yourselves if this is reasonable. You're trying to make the town look like hillbilly paradise with shipping containers in yards while you enforce mandatory landscaping? Please be grounded in reality	10/11/2025 8:15 AM
35	Not allowing RV'S, Work Trucks like Metronet, Boats etc be allowed to park regularly on public streets. Cedar Ave Between 26th and Lakeside Foods is the perfect example. They block views of side streets and the boat hasn't moved all summer but parked on the street.	10/10/2025 8:59 PM
36	Never build another school without sidewalks. That was stupid. Quit raising our taxes.	10/10/2025 8:44 PM
37	Stay out of our pockets	10/10/2025 1:04 PM
38	Stop running trails through neighborhoods	10/10/2025 9:05 AM
39	Cut the cost and stop lining ur pockets and give up actually people a break ya fucktards	10/10/2025 9:00 AM
40	MORE. AFFORDABLE. HOUSING. INTRODUCE RENTAL STABILIZATION. MARKET DRIVEN HOUSING IS A CORRUPT BUSINESS THAT REMOVES MONEY FROM MOST OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF OWATONNA AND PUTS IT INTO THE POCKETS OF CORPORATIONS.	10/4/2025 6:30 PM
41	Enforce leash laws and noise ordinances, especially barking dogs	10/3/2025 5:53 PM

Help Shape the Future of Owatonna

42	If someone has a business idea and it does not affect the neighbor's property, don't make it so difficult for the entrepreneur to be successful. Reduce regulations; the government only gets in the way of success.	10/2/2025 3:52 PM
43	This may be a long shot, but it may help to decide on zoning and subdivision codes, along with future community development, by creating a 1:1 map of current infrastructure and zoning using the video game Cities Skylines 2.	10/2/2025 2:04 PM
44	Owatonna really needs upper scale townhouses for middle aged people.	10/2/2025 12:02 PM
45	No but thanks for getting people's input	10/2/2025 11:46 AM
46	Larger lot sizes for new developments. The number of 1+ acre homes available in neighboring communities make them more desirable to live in.	10/2/2025 9:23 AM
47	We need more "things to do" around residential areas within walking or biking distance. Currently there are large distances between restaurants or other activities and places people live. This forces driving and expands car infrastructure (e.g. parking).	10/1/2025 9:10 PM
48	Use more native trees and plants	10/1/2025 8:14 PM
49	Remember this isn't a Twin Cities town/city. Owatonna can grow in area through annexation, most cities in the Twin Cites are land locked.	10/1/2025 5:12 PM

Q20 Tell us a little about yourself. Select all that apply

Answered: 331 Skipped: 73

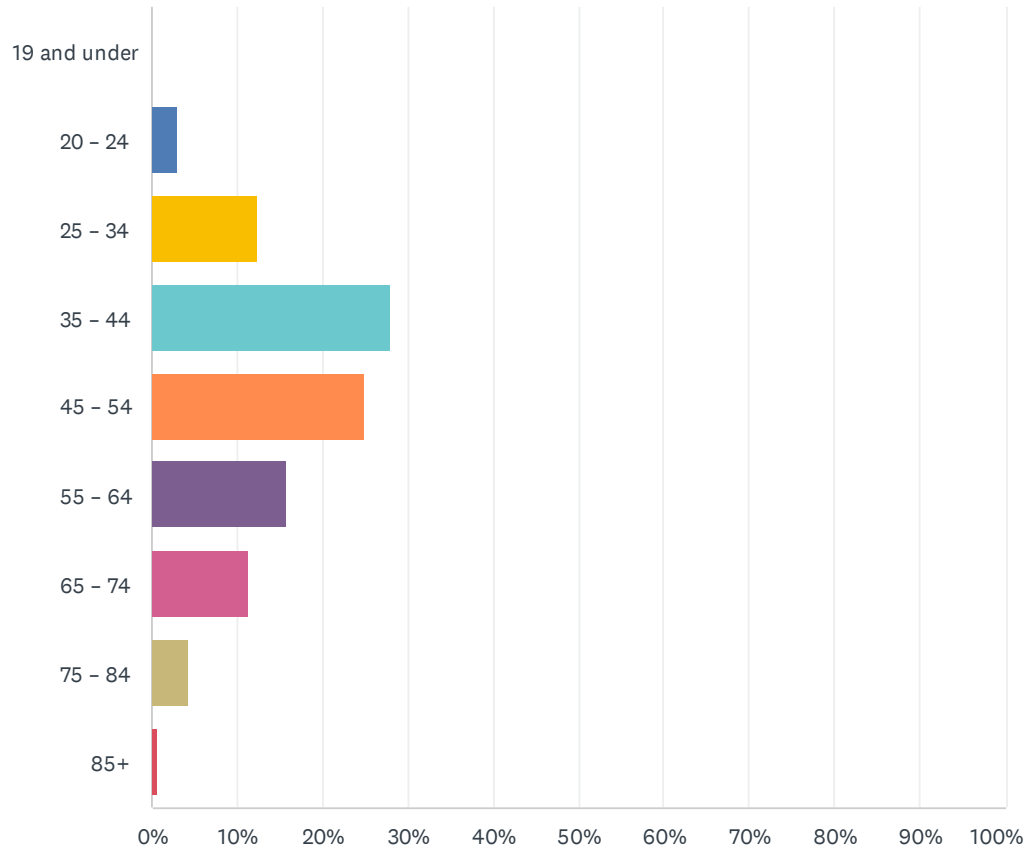


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Owatonna	92.15%	305
I work in Owatonna	51.36%	170
I own a business in Owatonna	15.41%	51
Other (please specify)	3.63%	12
Total Respondents: 331		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Retired	10/31/2025 11:19 AM
2	Near owatonna	10/23/2025 8:41 PM
3	former resident	10/20/2025 9:55 PM
4	You ran us right out of Owatonna!	10/20/2025 9:30 PM
5	Live nearby; looking to expand a business into Owatonna	10/20/2025 8:56 PM
6	Live in Steele county	10/20/2025 2:34 PM
7	I live one mile out of Owatonna	10/14/2025 9:02 AM
8	I live in Steele county	10/10/2025 11:34 PM
9	Rural Owatonna resident	10/10/2025 4:52 PM
10	I own a downtown building	10/2/2025 3:53 PM
11	work from home most days	10/1/2025 9:11 PM

Q21 What is your age?

Answered: 330 Skipped: 74



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
19 and under	0.00%	0
20 - 24	3.03%	10
25 - 34	12.42%	41
35 - 44	27.88%	92
45 - 54	24.85%	82
55 - 64	15.76%	52
65 - 74	11.21%	37
75 - 84	4.24%	14
85+	0.61%	2
TOTAL		330

COMPARISON REPORT OF BUILDING DONE IN CITY OF OWATONNA IN YEARS 2024 AND 2025												Ken Beck, Building Official			
	DWELLINGS		ACCESSORY		COMMERCIAL		ADD. & ALT.		DUPLEX/APTS		DEMO	TOTAL			
Month	NO.	VALUE	NO.	VALUE	NO.	VALUE	NO.	VALUE	NO.	VALUE	NO.	NO.	VALUE		
Jan '24	0	0	2	6,500	33	7,806,205	95	763,150	0	0	0	130	8,575,855		
Jan '25	0	0	0	0	22	13,865,031	85	566,740	0	0	0	107	14,431,771		
Feb '24	2	700,000	4	7,500	52	8,218,972.00	198	1,725,152.62	0	0	0	256	10,651,624.62		
Feb '25	1	317,000	1	500	40	15,540,396.00	185	1,110,858.11				227	16,968,754.11		
Mar '24	3	940,000	5	8,250	75	10,847,903	289	\$ 2,612,593.78				372	\$ 14,408,746.78		
Mar '25	1	317,000	14	51,721	59	17,995,810	278	\$ 1,975,163.16			2	354	\$ 20,339,694.16		
Apr '24	3	940,000	19	81,750	107	44,321,109	446	\$ 3,981,714.59	0	0	0	575	\$49,324,573.59		
Apr '25	6	1,502,000	25	102,117	73	22,381,515	395	3,025,025.86	0	0	3	502	27,010,657.86		
May '24	3	940,000	38	235,738	125	46,373,553.00	586	5,141,328.01				752	52,690,619.00		
May '25	7	2,068,000	39	170,017	102	31,555,159.00	567	4,993,234.30			4	719	38,786,410.30		
Jun '24	3	940,000	52	338,988.00	141	48,105,001.10	730	6,515,257.09	2	400,000	2	930	56,299,246.19		
Jun '25	8	2,448,000	51	218,624.33	120	34,423,774.00	740	7,382,208.84			4	923	44,472,607.17		
Jul '24	5	2,040,000	67	387,488.00	180	53,277,518.10	888	7,891,334.33	4	980,000	5	1149	64,576,340.43		
Jul '25	10	3,298,000	70	340,568.33	141	37,792,700.00	923	9,366,792.64			4	1148	50,798,060.97		
Aug '24	6	2,290,000	82	479,826.00	210	57,328,157.10	1058	9,938,435.49	4	980,000	5	1,365	71,016,418.59		
Aug '25	10	3,298,000	86	404,032.00	166	41,045,386.00	1075	11,186,236.26			5	1,342	\$55,933,654.26		
Sep '24	8	2,990,000	98	617,836.55	252	66,465,557.10	1187	11,171,273.45	4	980,000	6	1,555	82,224,667.10		
Sep '25	11	3,623,000	102	464,032.00	189	41,567,217.38	1290	13,253,047.25			7	1,599	58,907,296.63		
Oct '24	9	3,325,000	111	734,836.55	275	71,587,459.47	1,344	12,774,301.43	4	980,000	10	1,753	89,401,597.45		
Oct '25	12	4,173,000	118	550,508.77	219	42,658,452.42	1,473	15,124,203.49			9	1,831	62,506,164.68		
Nov '24	10	3,675,000	117	763,486.55	297	73,111,653.47	1,441	13,487,903.07	4	980,000	10	1,879	92,018,043.09		
Nov '25															
Dec '24	10	3,675,000	121	791,519.55	309	74,198,304	1,542	14,427,159.25	4	980,000	11	1,997	94,071,983.27		
Dec '25															

**Starting April 2023, Commerical and Industrial are combined

Owatonna Building Inspection Department Comparison Report- Construction to Date 2024/2025

Construction Report for Permits Issued through October, 2025

TYPE OF WORK	2024 PERMITS ISSUED	PERMITS ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION COST	Units	2025 PERMITS ISSUED	PERMITS ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION COST	Units
NEW DWELLINGS	9	3,325,000		12	4,173,000	
ACCESSORY BUILDINGS (INCLUDES GARAGES, UTIL. BLDGS, SW. POOLS, ETC.)	111	734,836.55		118	550,508.77	
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PR	275	71,587,459.47		219	42,658,452.42	
RESIDENTIAL ADD. & ALT.	1344	12,774,301.43		1473	15,124,203.49	
DUPLEXES & APTS. (INCLUDES ATTACHED SF)	4	980,000	0	0	0	0
DEMOLITION PERMITS	10	0		9	0	
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	1,753	89,401,597	0	1,831	62,506,165	0