

First Impressions of the City of Spooner

**by
Visitors from the City of Washburn**

SUMMARY REPORT

Visitor Profiles

Please check correct information:

 2 Male 8 Female
 1 Youth 9 Adult Senior

Date of visit:

- Tuesday, June 3, 2003 (2)
- Thursday, June 5, 2003 (3)
- Wednesday, June 11, 2003 (1)
- Thursday, June 12, 2003 (1)
- Friday, June 13, 2003 (1)
- Saturday, June 14, 2003 (2)

Weather during the visit:

- It was very nice out
- Sunny, 75°, beautiful
- Partly cloudy, cool
- Pleasant, warm and sunny, temperature 59° - 66°
- Sunshine, bright and warm
- 75° F., sunny, breezy
- Better than expected, a little brisk
- Sunny, 80°
- Sunny, got hot

As you approach the community...

I. What was my perception before visiting? What did I expect ?

Prior to the visit, list your perceptions of the community. What do you expect to find?

- I didn't know what to expect. I guess I was expecting the town to be a lot smaller.
- Being June, I figure lots of tourist.
- Small northern Wisconsin town. Dependent upon railroad and tourism.
- One reason I accepted this visit to Spooner was that my grandparents lived in Spooner and I visited often as a child, never really looking at the community as an adult. I expect to visit a city about the same population as Washburn. (Spooner 2,653)
- Small town like Washburn
- Tourist town.
- I knew nothing of Spooner. I knew that my mom did this trip and brought back really good bread (hoped to do the same).
- I have always looked at Spooner as being kind of sweaty. About the only thing that stuck out in my mind was it is the basketball sectional site and the "Big Cowboy."
- I was here 5 years ago and was very impressed by how well kept the neighborhoods were. It was a wedding, so not much time. Nick's food was great!
- Probably slightly larger than Washburn. Probably has more tourists stopping. Has a river (wondering what water sports available). Is it a lake (small lakes with cabins) community? Is it an all season community?

II. The "five minute" impression

Drive through the community without stopping. As you exit the community, pull over to the side of the road and write down what you felt about the town with only this quick look.

- It still had a small town feel, but yet with some of the aspects of large towns (stores, chain restaurants and businesses).
- Seemed like a much larger place than what the population is. Lot more businesses than what I expected!
- Not a bad main street. Certainly seems to be a vibrant community. Not much traffic for a 4-lane road. Noticeable lack of pedestrians. Can do without Barron Electric's shop and County Shop storage yard on north side and clutter of south side business district.
- Small cafes with outside dining caught my eye. The city felt busy and active, trucks hauling gravel, interesting business district running parallel to Hwy 63, good signage to hospital.
- Nice, Clean

- Surprised at all the business it had for a small town. Especially compared to Washburn (about the same population).
- I enjoyed my first five minutes. It felt like a town that was welcoming (not too intimidating). My favorite part was the little old man.
- Community seemed much more vibrant and active than I remember.
- 10:00 am. Quiet. Not too many signs and they're low. Streets that need checking out (short) as in low. Loved the dock on route into water by the hatchery.
- Liked the outdoor cafés, plan on going back for lunch at one. I'm the driver - Sandy pointed out streets. River caught our eye - fish hatchery? What is river used for? Streets were clean and well cared for. Almost a subdivision shopping area upon exit.

III. Driving... Evaluate EACH entrance

(a) STH 63 North. Drive north to Cty. Hwy. H on STH 63, turn around and return back to Spooner. List the positive and negative aspects of the northern entrance to the city.

- There was a semi with a large Economart sign on it that wasn't that attractive. One thing that I liked and thought was funny was the giant cowboy. What's that all about? Also, the water slide looks like it could be fun.
- County garage wasn't real impressive. Other than that it was fine.
- Not badly cluttered not junky. Signs south of CT A don't add much. Surely the necessity to advertise can be done in classier manner. As noted - County Shop and Barron Electric shop don't add much to streetscape. Garbage in swamp by Economart sign. Nice tourist information signs. Not a bad streetscape as urban area is entered.
- Driving north on 63 I noticed a sign about a golf course so we turned on Hwy H and found the Spooner golf course, talked to a man who worked there. Very polite and told us interesting stories. Also found a beautiful lake, but no welcome signage with its name. Later found out it is Spooner Lake. Welcome sign.
- County garage is somewhat of an eye sore.
- Nice cowboy! It was an average entrance into the town, a few eyesores and an abundance of signs.
- This was the least neat of the four, but it wasn't bad at all.
- IGA trailer sign not, billboardy, water slide, cowboy.
- North - not quite as inviting. Plans for abandon train. Great place to have a quick stop and explore train. Introduce visitors to train history. More residential, well maintained. Trailer park (set back nicely). Cafés again!

(b) Drive south to Little Valley Road on STH 63. Turn around and head back into Spooner. List the positive and negative aspects of the southern entrance to the city.

- This was really pretty because you could really see a lot.

- Was nice, nothing negative
- Nice pleasant drive south of state patrol HDQ. North of state patrol very cluttered, junky looking. Plant some trees in front of NWRPC. Control signs. The area is not attractive or inviting. Waterfront park nice - fence by fish hatchery not particularly attractive.
- This was a newer strip mall feeling entrance into the city, Pamida, McDonalds, etc. Past by the Yellow River, gave me a feeling like I would like to stop in Spooner. Negative - long stretch to drive, busy traffic. Welcome sign.
- Nice to see the river. Surprised not a lot of park area.
- I loved this entrance because you got an almost aerial view and the bodies of water were nearby, which caused for a very pleasant entrance.
- Many thriving businesses, neat and clean.
- Clear woods. Little or no signs. Pretty attractive.
- Come in south - quieter entrance more green, less signs. Enter city - lots of large signs, advertising? Railroad museum sign, did not notice coming from north. Railroads importance? More rodeo signs. Think business district starts at McDonalds? Or a couple blocks up. Not much residential (only by river – river pretty). Did see tourist information sign.

(c) Drive east on STH 70 to the Spooner Agricultural Research Station. Turn around and return to STH 63. List the positive and negative aspects of the eastern entrance to the city.

- There were some really nice houses. Except there was one house that had an old car seat in the front yard that looked pretty tacky.
- Was nice, nothing negative.
- Not bad. Like planning that provided frontage road for business. For most part attractive. So why does Economart need so many gaudy signs?
- Less traffic, less developed. Can get on the Wild River Trail here. Welcome sign.
- Love all the trees, nice maintained homes. Car or bus seat on front lawn, kind of tacky.
- Was OK
- Very nice community, looks welcoming. And I'd imagine living there would be a nice neighborly atmosphere and a good place to borrow a cup of sugar from anyone.
- Same as (b) as far as clean. Residential was nice and well kept.
- Similar to south entrance. Not much signage. Well groomed Ag Center, hatchery. Hatchery Drive so inviting, open water, shaded shores, small slate colored walking trail, coves. So many trees left on water, Locust, Maple, Willow, large old trees. Car bench seat in front of house. Mixed up with (d).

(d) Drive west on STH 70 to the cemetery. Turn around and return to STH 63. List the positive and negative aspects of the western entrance to the city.

- All the buildings were very pleasant looking. Very well taken care of.
- Nice, neat
- Pleasant appealing drive. Like tourist and community information signs.
- We liked this entrance to Spooner, stopped at the Governor Thompson Fish Hatchery. Also drove by the DNR building. We thought there was good signage here. Welcome sign.
- Same as (c) - plus many nice older homes.
- More industrial looking, big selling places, NAPA, Sears. Never found the cemetery. Mixed up with (c).
- Found cemetery easily. Turned at city park sign, missed.

IV. Driving... Comments on:

(a) As you drive around town, keep in the back of your mind whether directional signage was adequate.

- Seemed to be
- Not all points of interest or public buildings have directional signs. Good signage for municipal parking lots.
- Good hospital signage, poor parking signage. Had to search for the parks.
- Very good
- I didn't see hospital till third time around. Glad we had a map. Parks, schools we tripped over.
- Lovely curving picturesque streets.

a) Observe and make comments on:

Street signs

- There were not enough street signs for some things (like parks).
- Seemed fine
- Every corner passed as a street sign!
- Very adequate
- Adequate
- Fine
- Nice
- Varied and well placed. It was easy to locate things.
- Regular, easy to follow.
- Street signs were adequate. Every street seemed marked.

Do you perceive signage to be adequate in helping find local businesses?

- Yes, for the most part
- Good
- Overkill. Signs are necessary, but need to be attractive.
- Yes, but not the parks.
- Yes
- OK

- Helpful but sometimes tacky
- Excellent, compared to Washburn.
- I really liked the height limits on signs. Getting around was no problem.

Street lights

- OK
- A definite plus. Wouldn't be able to cross without them.
- Appear to be adequate. Perhaps US 63 north and south of CBD could use more lighting. For busy street, doesn't seem adequate. Residential areas seem adequate.
- I loved the quaint green street lamps on Walnut Street.
- These help as traffic on 63 was busy. Difficult to cross without them.
- More than Washburn will ever have!
- Very attractive.
- Street lights OK.

Traffic patterns, street conditions

- Some of the streets could have been in better condition.
- Hwy 63 seemed very busy this time of year.
- Main highways were busy. Made it awkward to enter traffic.
- I did not drive, but we had no traffic problems, some rough streets. Courteous drivers.
- Traffic flowed well through the city. Street conditions were good.
- Hwy 63 busy. Streets condition were good.
- Easy driving, except I'd hate to be around during the rodeo.
- Good for the most part, some rough areas but not bad.
- Easy driving, easy walking, not hard to cross.
- Trouble entering tourist center, my fault.

Welcome signs at entrances

- The entrance sign by Sears was very nice. Very welcoming.
- Attractive
- Wonderful welcome signs at each entrance! Took a picture of them.
- The ones that I saw I liked and they captured the town.
- Very good
- Very nice signs. We noticed at each entrance and commented on how pretty they are.

Street trees

- Trees were all really nice. Plus, there was a very good amount of them.
- Nice
- Urban forest appears good. Would like to see more street trees along highway. More street trees along CTH K.
- Noticed the trees on each end of the blocks of Walnut Street. Very nice.
- Loved all the trees.
- OK

- Um ... lots of them.
- Very good
- Just wonderful. Incredible. Great!
- Very nice

Building maintenance

- Most of the buildings looked very nice. Upkeep was good.
- Kept
- City takes pride in maintenance of public buildings. Private property owners take pride in homes and community as well. Difference between community that is thriving and not just surviving.
- Some vacant stores on Walnut Street, but did not notice any real eye sores. Spooner seems to be turning some of the “bars” into very attractive shops. Interesting.
- For the most part, building maintenance was quite good. There were a few buildings that were run down looking on the Main Street.
- In good repair.
- Very nice and most of the buildings are consistently “woody” but each has their own rendition.
- With only a few exceptions, buildings were neat and well kept.
- Outside of a few listed not maintenance (except garage on 63) but style. I was beyond impressed and would like to know how the city manages it and resistance run into. ACE building not, Spooner garage not.
- Some empty. Some newly remodeled. Most were fine.

V. Driving...

a) Evaluate the River Street (STH 63) Business District (signs, building appearance, streetscape, cleanliness, activity, etc.).

- Very neat, busy, clean
- Certainly improvements could be made to increase attractiveness, but you could do a lot worse as well. Be nice to see more green space between sidewalks and parking lots.
- Busy Highway 63 running N & S wants to push you through Spooner quickly. Feels calmer to get off 63.
- Clean, busy
- All very good

b) List the boundary streets of what you perceive to be the City’s downtown business district:

- Elm, Oak, Front St.
- High, Elm, Oak, Summit, Pine, Maple, Front.
- Walnut Street and North 63 for maybe 4 blocks and South 63 for maybe 4 blocks? I really liked the downtown area for walking and closeness of shops.
- Summit and Front

- Bashaw, Elm, Oak, Front Street
- I'd be nice to have less traffic flow.
- Frost and Summit, Walnut. Pamida/Subway
- Mostly on River Street. A few businesses farther away. Little shopping centers as leaving town on N 63.

c) Find the hospital. Comments ...

- Hospital looks pretty with all of the trees around it. Also, I like that it's in the middle of neighborhood but it's not too overbearing.
- Very easy
- Not a problem finding hospital from all corners of community.
- We toured the hospital and nursing home and we were very impressed! One of Spooner's major employers.
- Easy to find
- Easy to find
- Very nice hospital.
- Looked good
- Happened onto while cruising west neighborhoods. Clean, sharp, fits right in.
- Easy to find and follow signs. Great pictures on wall - historical. Nursing home was wonderful.

d) Find the schools. Comments ...

- The schools looked nice, especially the one with the track. Although, signs for schools could have been better.
- Very easy, nice large playground, area well kept.
- Found schools, never found a directional sign however.
- We drove past the Middle and High School and the Elementary School. We found all of them neat with nice playgrounds and athletic fields. I enjoyed the caboose and little train "Mascots."
- Schools looked to be well maintained. Lots of activity going on with the kids!
- Grade school easy to find, nice playground area. High school a little more difficult, but not hard to find.
- Getting a little old, but well kept.
- Happened onto them while cruising. Very big. Great track. Nice is the neighborhood!
- Cute caboose - school look dated, Middle/High. Elementary newer - cute train.

VI. Comments on parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, etc.:

(a) Visit Centennial Park on Walnut Street and STH 63. What is your perception of this downtown green space?

- It was pretty small, but the flowers were pretty.

- Public restrooms well maintained. Surprising good use of space. No one visiting today. Does public use it?
- No name sign, we didn't know it was called Centennial Park. Nice corner lot to sit and rest from shopping. Pretty flowers, needs more benches.
- No signage
- Brings some color and green to downtown. Public restrooms is great. Do not feel you have to bother merchants to use their facilities.
- Facilities were all well kept and usable.
- Like the park, block ground is a bit modern. Loved that group takes care of garden.
- Nice assortment of parks highway side of downtown. Park sidewalk full of sand.

(b) Visit Veteran's Memorial Park south on STH 63. Was directional signage adequate? Give your perception of the facilities. What did you like and dislike?

- It is pretty, especially the fishing pier.
- Signage all right! Park not what I expected. Small, not a whole lot there!
- Better way of honoring vets than Washburn's. Get rid of fence. Are restrooms working? Good fishing pier. Make parking lot more attractive.
- We had to look for the sign to this park. They are working on lighting the flags. Pretty little area on the Yellow River Flowage with fishing pier and boat landing.
- Signage was adequate. Very pretty. Loved the fishing bridge. Loved all the trees.
- Signage OK. Flush toilets would be better. New memorial under construction looks like it will be nice when done.
- Yes. Didn't seem to be as much traffic as I had expected.
- Ties into Hatchery walk. Refer to pictures. Loved it!!
- Not marked well going south, but could see the sign going north. Great fishing pier! Work being done.

(c) Visit Triangle Park on Cty. Hwy K west of STH 63. Was directional signage adequate? Give your perception of the facilities. What did you like and dislike?

- We couldn't find it.
- Signage good. Not a real large park. Was a nice clean park.
- A good start for making an appealing passive space. Curb too high on K, scratches sides of car. How about more flower gardens, paving blocks for path, a fountain? At a minimum a drinking fountain.
- We also had to search out this little park, not too special. However people were eating at a picnic table and using the little park.
- Did not see signage. Cute little park.

- Signage OK, but missed it because thought it would be bigger. Landscaping very nice, but no picnic tables seen.
- Yes. Seemed to be a nice park - again well kept up.
- Couldn't find it. Goes back to some lack of signage.
- Found it and it was being used (great sign).

(d) Visit Lioness Park on Walnut Street. Give your perception of the facilities. What did you like and dislike?

- It looked very nice, nice baseball field, but the playground could have been bigger.
- Small, not much there. Clean
- If this is the park at Walnut and Vale, great use of space, fantastic neighborhood green space.
- We never saw a name sign on this park. We drove by with no place to park the car. This park was on the top of the hill on Walnut Street. We found the hours interesting.
- Didn't make this one.
- Not sure if we found it.
- On hillside I think. Not much parking. Neighborhood park?

VII. Driving...Comments on residential area:

Tour the community west of River Street (STH 63). Drive and/or walk around a variety of residential areas of the city. Get a feel of the types of residential structures, the condition of structures, yard maintenance, conditions of sidewalks and roadsides, condition of streets. Record your impressions.

- The houses all seemed to be in pretty condition. There were a few that needed some good paint jobs though.
- I noticed how a lot of homes, businesses and landscapes used a lot of field stone. Real impressive. Some side streets had potholes but by far pretty decent. Sidewalks good.
- Does Spooner have a bad street? Nice inviting neighborhood. Well maintained properties, newly reconstructed streets. Oddball combination of streets with and without curbs. Sell me a house.
- We were impressed with the residential area. Looked neat with many planted flowers. We didn't see "junk" in yards like campers, old cars, etc. I liked the use of rock and stones in the houses, porches and walkways. I took some pictures.
- Majority of the homes are well maintained as well as the sidewalks and streets.
- Some side streets potholes, but not awful. Sidewalk good. Yard and homes appeared well kept. Lots of field stone use on many houses - nice.
- I enjoyed the appearance of the community.

- I was very impressed with the neatness, maintenance and overall condition of a vast majority of the homes, especially the older ones.
- Refer to III(c). How does the city involve everyone. It's incredible. Not a bad house yard (except west with car seats on the lawn just before hatchery on right).
- Thought the residential areas we saw were very nice.

VIII. Walking around...:

(a) Walk around the downtown business area. What did you perceive to be the downtown business boundaries.

- Mostly on Walnut
- Elm, Front, High, Oak
- We parked and walked all of Walnut Street. We shopped and stopped for an ice cream cone. One furniture store and the clothing store. The merchandise was mostly on the "tourist" side. Felt a little like Hayward.
- Most everything on Walnut.
- Very quaint, it could use one of those little businesses that Spooner is all about.
- Same as V(b)?
- 1 block off Hwy 63 to 2 blocks up.

b) What do you think of the condition of the sidewalks?

- Sidewalks seemed good, except for one incident with some vomit.
- Decent
- Many areas lack sidewalks. Sidewalks present appear to be in good condition.
- No grass in the sidewalks of Walnut Street.
- Sidewalks were well maintained.
- Very good. Did not trip once.
- Well, I didn't trip!
- Not bad. Some need work. Most are OK.
- Excellent condition
- Fine

(c) Were people you encountered friendly? Ask questions, such as "how do I get to the Railroad Museum?" or "where do I get tickets for the train ride?" or "how do I get to the rodeo grounds?" Did the folks you meet try and help?

- Yes, everyone was extremely helpful and friendly. They were able to help us with the questions we had. If they couldn't they directed us to who could.
- Everyone seemed to very helpful and friendly.
- Yes, folks in stores, information center and city hall very friendly and helpful.

- The #1 thing I enjoyed about Spooner was the people we met! Everyone was super nice!! We talked to many people and asked many questions. I was really impressed.
- People were very, very friendly.
- Everyone met was friendly and approachable.
- I had to ask my friend Nicole if they were told to be nice to us, or if they were on happy pills. Everyone was very humble and helpful.
- Yes. This was a tough one for me to really evaluate as I know people in Spooner.
- Not one place in 6 hours did we encounter 1 unpleasant person. From the businesses to citizens down shopping I said everyone must take happy/nice pills in the a.m.
- First encounter at golf course. Very nice man (history, directions, etc.).

(d) Stop in at the Washburn County Tourist Information Center. Note the day of the week and the time you visited. Did you find the Information Center to be open? What did you think of the signage? Ask for a city map. Were the staff helpful?

- 2:30 on Thursday. Yes it was open. Yes they were.
- Saturday noon. It was open and the woman working was very friendly, personable.
- Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. Open. Attractive building. Put more green space in site plan.
- We stopped at the Information Center in the morning (9:50 a.m.) and it was open. We didn't see the high sign on 63 at first, but after a trip around the block found the very attractive building and outside sign. The women were very helpful and friendly and we picked up a lot of literature.
- Thursday afternoon. Center was open. Signage was adequate. Staff was very friendly.
- Saturday around 10:00 a.m. Was open. Staff was informative and friendly. Forgot to ask for map - had one in packet.
- Yes. Very nice. Again, the people here knew who I was, so this is probably not a real accurate example.
- Great people, easy to find, tons of information.
- Very nice and inviting. Sign on street not very large, does not stand out, though it is very pretty. A large sign greets entrance would be better placed close to street. We missed it the first pass through.

(e) Visit City Hall. Could you find the location okay? If a week day, stop in the building and ask for a street map. Was the staff member you encountered helpful? Did you find parking to be adequate at City Hall.

- Got a little lost going there, kinda hard to find. But, once we were there the staff was very helpful.
- Location good.

- No directional signs. Asked for direction at tourist information center. City hall staff very helpful.
- We did not visit City Hall. The only thing we did not make it to.
- Asked for directions to City Hall. Staff member was very helpful and informative.
- Location OK
- People seemed nice, professional, active, but still friendly.
- How helpful - even went in to find out how the Sports Complex is financed - very informative, but we had to ask where to find City Hall.
- Did not go there.

(f) Visit the Northwest Sports Complex. Record your comments.....

- It was enormous! I can't believe they have something with all of the equipment and resources that they did in the size of town that it is. I was very impressed.
- Didn't find.
- Is this city park? If so, well maintained complex. Doesn't appear to have been planned completely. Just looks like it happened. Good complex of playgrounds, ball diamonds and hockey rinks. Probably needs another vehicle access to CTH K to get traffic off residential streets.
- We were very impressed with this building. Ice rink, swimming pool and great meeting rooms. Spooner is lucky to have this sports complex.
- I was very impressed with the amount of things available to do at sports complex.
- Didn't make it.
- Wow - we ran into a couple of teenagers working out there. They were very helpful, informative, and pleasant!
- WOW

WRAP UP

A. Using your "senses"...

1. What does the community TASTE like? (bakery, restaurant, etc.)

- The food that we had was all very good. The bakery was excellent. Also, the family restaurant was very delicious.
- Went to a family restaurant, food was good. Building could use some updating. Very cold air conditioning.
- Nick's restaurant was good service.
- We ate at an outside restaurant at a little table. They had a liquor license, good food and good weather.
- Visited the bakery. Everything looked scrumptious. Ate at local family restaurant. Food was great. Waitress was very friendly.

- Restaurant Nick Family Restaurant was good. Air conditioning was too cold.
- A good mix of ethnic and conventional foods and stops. The business flavor seemed to be upbeat and progressive.
- Fruit salad, natural, varied flavors, all good (unless there's marshmallows).
- The bakery was too, too good. Restaurant food was Ok. Ice cream cone very good.

2. What does the community SMELL like?

- In certain parts it smelled like fish (a.k.a. the fishery). Fresh cut grass, and fresh air, with occasional exhaust from cars.
- No smell really.
- Nothing unusual or obnoxious.
- Didn't notice.
- No distinct smell, which is better than stinky.
- Clean and neat. Plants located in many areas. Fresh cut grass and air that was breathable.
- Didn't really notice. Does the river present a problem sometimes?

3. What SOUNDS did you hear?

- Traffic, flowing water, chirping birds
- Just traffic
- A quiet community heavily dependant on autos. Construction sounds of a community rebuilding itself.
- Hwy 63 was busy, so we heard loud traffic, trucks hauling gravel. We also heard birds singing in the bushes outside the hospital.
- Laughter, lawn mowers, a few kids, birds and the rest of nature every once in a while.
- People moving about, lots of traffic flow. Folks conversing.

4. What did the community FEEL like (emotional response, i.e. cold/warm, crowded/deserted, inviting, etc., or physical response, i.e. rough streets, etc.)?

- People were warm and the streets weren't deserted, but they weren't crowded either.
- Nice, quaint, busy town, friendly.
- Community felt like a progressive vibrant community. Community in which citizens take a great deal of pride.
- I enjoyed the community very much and came home feeling tired and happy.
- Very warm and friendly
- Warm, friendly, busy

- The time frame we were there, we saw a lot of the older folks and they're always good for a warm smile!!
- I felt welcome and was received in a positive manner.
- Inviting, calm, restful, could stay a while. Attracted, comfortable.
- Pretty nice streets, houses well maintained, pretty rock architecture everywhere.

B. List the 5 most positive things you observed about the community:

1.
 - The cheerfulness of the community.
 - The amount of activities there were for kids (rec center).
 - The small town/old feeling of the town.
 - The houses were all really pretty.
 - Didn't really find a bad part of town.

2.
 - Lots of businesses
 - Clean town
 - Friendly
 - Busy
 - Lots of nice buildings

3.
 - Pride in community
 - Vibrant community that reinvests in itself.
 - A community that knows where it is going and how it is going to get there.
 - A community that appears to be a good steward of resources provided to it.
 - A community in which it appears everyone (county, city, businesses) work together.

4.
 - Warm friendly people!
 - Stores had flowers by their doors.
 - Closeness of the stores in the business district.
 - Many churches. We visited Trinity Lutheran. They have an outside chapel and service.
 - Clean and neat yards.

5.
 - Friendly
 - Clean
 - Trees, loved all the trees
 - Shops

6.
 - Many businesses
 - Information from visitor center and how city is trying to attract people.
 - Friendly people

7.
 - Vibrant business sector
 - Clean and well kept
 - Friendly people
 - Diversified businesses
 - Good and ample signage

8.
 - Open water and use of hatchery to Veteran's Park.
 - Open water along 63
 - Conditions downtown - theme, style, mix of natural.
 - Trees all over town
 - The well maintained groomed welcoming neighborhoods.

9.
 - Great trail!! multi-use
 - Swimming pool, WOW
 - Railroad museum (train ride)
 - Hospital and nursing home
 - Yarn store - yippee

C. Describe ONE idea that you will adopt or adapt for use in your own business/community:

- Lisa and I both thought the visitor center was very accessible, attractive.
- Teamwork! Cooperation! Pride!
- I will work on getting a better sign for the Washburn Chamber Office. Our office is not easy to find!!
- Accessible visitor center
- For towns that are close to the same population, Spooner has many more and bigger businesses. Also, the businesses seem to accept competition. We need more businesses.
- Some kind of style for downtown.
- Outdoor café/umbrella

D. What will you remember most about the community six months from now?

- How much there was in the town for the size it is.
- The hustle and bustle.
- Communities that take pride in themselves thrive.
- I liked the business district and shops. Friendly people.
- The variety of shops to visit.
- The activity within the community.
- How clean and neat Spooner has become in the last several years and how progressive and positive the business climate is.
- Neighborhoods and their beauty/maintenance.

E. Other comments (that just didn't seem to fit anywhere else!)

- Walnut Street parking, very cramped and the street itself was tight, suffocating.
- Make visitor center parking spaces wider. Strange street pattern, part of what makes community interesting.
- My grandparents moved to Spooner because of the railroad. I was interested if Spooner was preserving the importance of its history as a railroad town and I was impressed - welcome signs, museum, trains at both schools, lanterns on restaurant tables. You can even get a train ride!
- Surprise not to see large park for family gatherings, picnics, etc. Parking downtown allows for more cars, but feels very congested.
- We were so impressed, great job! How'd you do it?
- I hope to come back camping, etc.