

IOWA COUNTY SMART GROWTH PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY  
**Town of Ridgeway**

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

1. What are the three most important reasons for you and your family to live in Iowa County? (Because of three selections per person the totals will be greater than 100%.)

a. Agriculture	26%
b. Appearance of homes	0%
c. Community services	1%
d. Cost of home	13%
e. Historical significance	0%
f. Low crime rate	16%
g. Natural beauty	68%
h. Near family and friends	31%
i. Near job or employment opportunities	20%
j. Property taxes	13%
k. Quality neighborhoods	2%
l. Quality schools	6%
m. Recreational opportunities	33%
n. Small town atmosphere	35%

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

3. Please rate each of the following services excellent, good, fair, or poor. Choose “not applicable” (NA) if the item does not pertain to you or you are not sure about an item. “NR” means No Response

	<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Ambulance service	16%	54%	10%	0%	12%	9%
b. Fire protection	16%	59%	10%	1%	9%	5%
c. Garbage collection	12%	56%	10%	11%	8%	4%
d. Municipal water supply	1%	14%	2%	2%	65%	16%
e. Park and recreation facilities	30%	52%	11%	0%	10%	8%
f. Police protection	3%	48%	30%	3%	5%	10%
g. Public library	5%	38%	18%	8%	25%	6%
h. Public schools system	9%	44%	21%	2%	16%	8%
i. Recycling program	9%	51%	19%	9%	5%	8%
j. Sanitary sewer service	3%	14%	4%	1%	63%	14%
k. Snow removal	9%	63%	14%	3%	8%	3%
l. Storm water management	1%	15%	13%	6%	53%	12%
m. Street and road maintenance	3%	51%	37%	5%	1%	3%

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

4. The following questions ask your opinion about the importance of natural and cultural resources in your community. How important is it to protect the following?

(Your responses are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), Not Applicable (NA) and No Response (NR).)

	<b>E</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Air quality	56%	22%	16%	1%	0%	5%
b. Farmland	39%	31%	23%	4%	0%	3%
c. Forested lands	33%	43%	18%	2%	0%	3%
d. Groundwater	65%	23%	9%	1%	0%	3%
e. Historic and cultural sites	17%	33%	40%	5%	1%	4%
f. Open space	32%	34%	22%	8%	0%	4%
g. Rivers and streams	56%	26%	14%	0%	1%	3%
h. Rural character	34%	29%	26%	6%	0%	4%
i. Scenic views and undeveloped hills/bluffs	44%	24%	25%	4%	0%	3%
j. Wetlands	42%	20%	30%	4%	0%	3%
k. Wildlife habitat	41%	25%	27%	2%	0%	5%

**HOUSING**

Housing is an important part of how a community grows. We would like your opinion about the development of housing in your community.

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

5. Your local jurisdiction should focus on improving existing housing quality.

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
14%	49%	10%	4%	13%	10%

6. The following types of housing are needed:

a. Single family housing

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
14%	39%	12%	3%	22%	11%

b. Duplexes (2 units)

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
1%	32%	25%	10%	22%	11%

c. Apartments (3 or more)

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
1%	25%	27%	15%	22%	11%

7. Affordable housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	45%	19%	5%	17%	9%

8. Elderly housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
6%	48%	10%	5%	18%	12%

9. Starter (first time buyer) homes are needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	32%	25%	10%	19%	10%

10. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (option a) or a cluster design (option b)?

Option A (traditional design)	11%
Option B (cluster design)	70%
No response	20%

**AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE**

The following questions are asking for your opinion about agriculture and land use in Iowa County.

11. Productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for:

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

a. Agricultural use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
68%	27%	0%	0%	1%	4%

b. Residential use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
5%	29%	29%	24%	2%	11%

c. Commercial use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	18%	25%	39%	3%	13%

d. Any use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
5%	12%	17%	41%	9%	16%

12. Large scale farms (500 or more animal units) should be allowed to expand:

a. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
9%	14%	37%	29%	2%	10%

b. Nowhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
19%	15%	38%	12%	6%	10%

c. Outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	31%	15%	16%	9%	15%

13. Landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
15%	14%	38%	28%	1%	4%

14. The visual impacts (view of the landscape) of development are an important consideration when evaluating proposed development.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
37%	51%	4%	3%	2%	4%

15. It is important to require driveways that will meet standards for providing emergency services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
31%	52%	11%	2%	0%	3%

16. There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
35%	35%	16%	6%	2%	4%

17. In your opinion what should be the minimum lot size for rural residential development?

Less than 1 acre	6%
One to 5 acres	34%
5 to 10 acres	8%
11 to 40 acres	13%
40 or more acres	32%
No limitation	3%
No response	3%

**TRANSPORTATION**

18. The overall road network (roads, streets, and highways) in Iowa County meets the needs of its citizens.

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	77%	4%	0%	0%	3%

19. The condition of local roads and streets in your community is adequate for intended uses.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	71%	12%	1%	1%	3%

20. Biking and walking are important modes of transportation in your community.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
8%	38%	29%	10%	10%	6%

21. There should be more biking and walking lanes along public roadways.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
15%	26%	32%	15%	6%	5%

22. Rate the following in your local jurisdiction.

Your choices are Excellent (E) Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P), Not Applicable (NA), and No Response (NR).

	E	G	F	P	NA	NR
a. Roads	6%	67%	22%	1%	0%	4%
b. Sidewalks	0%	6%	16%	3%	66%	9%
c. Bike trails	22%	45%	14%	1%	13%	5%
d. Airports	3%	7%	7%	3%	72%	8%
e. Bus service	3%	3%	1%	10%	74%	9%
f. Shared ride van services	3%	10%	14%	4%	59%	10%
g. Railroads	0%	2%	1%	9%	78%	10%

**COMMUNICATION**

23. Check the two most effective ways your local jurisdiction could provide smart growth information to its landowners and residents. (Because more than one response was asked for the totals will be more than 100%.)

a. Direct mailings	70%
b. Newspaper articles	17%
c. Radio	8%
d. Newsletters	45%
e. Public meetings	38%
f. Internet	12%

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The following questions are asking about how you view economic development in your local community.

24. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:

(Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).)

a. In an existing city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
22%	37%	26%	1%	3%	12%

b. Near a city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	60%	12%	1%	4%	9%

c. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
3%	13%	33%	33%	1%	16%

25. Iowa County should work to coordinate efforts to actively recruit new businesses and industry.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
28%	45%	15%	4%	2%	5%

26. All Iowa communities should provide at least some land with infrastructure (water, sewer, access, etc.) for industrial and commercial uses either owned publicly or privately.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
8%	43%	30%	10%	4%	5%

27. Development at the edge of cities and villages should be required to have municipal water and sewer services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
23%	53%	14%	2%	4%	4%

28. Iowa County jurisdictions should pursue the following energy alternatives as a form of economic development.

	SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
a. Ethanol plants	16%	26%	23%	4%	17%	14%
b. Solar energy	24%	47%	6%	1%	9%	13%
c. Wind energy	35%	46%	6%	0%	5%	6%

29. Rate the importance of the following.

Your choices are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), No Opinion, (NO), and No Response (NR).

	<b>E</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Agricultural related businesses	43%	29%	19%	2%	1%	5%
b. Commercial and retail development	12%	29%	34%	15%	3%	6%
c. Downtown development – main street	19%	23%	38%	9%	5%	6%
d. Home based businesses	6%	19%	40%	15%	12%	8%
e. Industrial and manufacturing development	6%	24%	45%	15%	3%	6%
f. Tourism and recreation	26%	30%	28%	3%	5%	8%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Please tell us some things about you:

<b>1. Gender</b>	
Male	67%
Female	26%
No response	7%
<b>2. Age</b>	
18 to 24	1%
25 to 34	3%
35 to 44	24%
45 to 54	34%
55 to 64	20%
65 and older	17%
No response	1%

<b>3. Employment status</b>	
a. Employed full time	54%
b. Employed part time	8%
c. Unemployed	0%
d. Self-employed	19%
e. Retired	16%
f. Other	2%
g. No response	1%

<b>4. Place of residence</b>	
a. Own	99%
b. Rent	1%
c. Other	0%
d. No response	0%

5. Number of adults (over 18) in household	
a. None	0%
b. One	19%
c. Two	79%
d. Three	1%
e. Four	1%
f. Five or more	0%
g. No response	0%

6. Number of children (under 18) in household	
a. None	66%
b. One	12%
c. Two	11%
d. Three	3%
e. Four	0%
f. Five or more	1%
g. No response	5%

7. Income range	
a. Less than \$15,000	4%
b. \$15,000 to \$24,999	8%
c. \$25,000 to \$49,999	28%
d. \$50,000 to \$74,999	24%
e. \$75,000 to \$99,999	17%
f. \$100,000 or more	12%
g. No response	8%

8. How long have you lived in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 year	0%
b. 1 to 4 years	16%
c. 5 to 9 years	13%
d. 10 to 24 years	19%
e. 25 years or more	48%
f. No response	3%

9. How many acres of land do you own in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 acre	9%
b. 1 to 10 acres	17%
c. 11 to 100 acres	46%
d. 100 acres or more	25%
e. No response	3%

**END OF SUMMARY**