

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY



WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 2022

PREPARED BY



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CONVEYING COMMUNITY INPUT



The population of the United States is rapidly aging. By 2030, one of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older.

The first of many steps to make our city more livable for adults age 65 and older, Wauwatosa became part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in January 2022. This is a part of the larger AARP Livable Communities initiative which supports the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities and rural areas to be great places to live for people of all ages.

For more information on Age Friendly Communities visit:
<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/>

SURVEYING WAUWATOSA RESIDENTS

A community survey was designed by AARP for Age Friendly Communities to help gather input on the 8 domains of livability. The online survey was completed by 439 Wauwatosa residents.

Survey promotions were sent out via the Tosa Age Friendly Steering Committee and the Wauwatosa Health Department.

AGE REPRESENTATION

- Range: 45-91
- Median Age: 67
- Mode (occurred the most): 69
 - 40's: 8%
 - 50's: 23%
 - 60's: 40%
 - 70's: 24%
 - 80's: 3%
 - 90's: 0%

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

- 95% have lived in Wauwatosa 5 years or more
- 64% have lived in Wauwatosa at least 25 years
- 66% have lived in their current residence at least 15 years
- 87% live in single-family homes
- 72% were female
- 84% have a Bachelor's Degree or higher
- 97% were White, 98% non-Hispanic
- 50% were retired
- 88% have an annual household income of \$50,000 or more

OVERALL SURVEY RESPONDENT PERCEPTIONS OF WAUWATOSA AS A COMMUNITY



HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR COMMUNITY AS A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE AS THEY AGE?



Factors that make residents consider moving



71% of participants want to stay in Wauwatosa as they age
68% indicate importance to remain in current community as long as possible
67% rate Wauwatosa as very good or excellent as community to age in

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



1. HOUSING

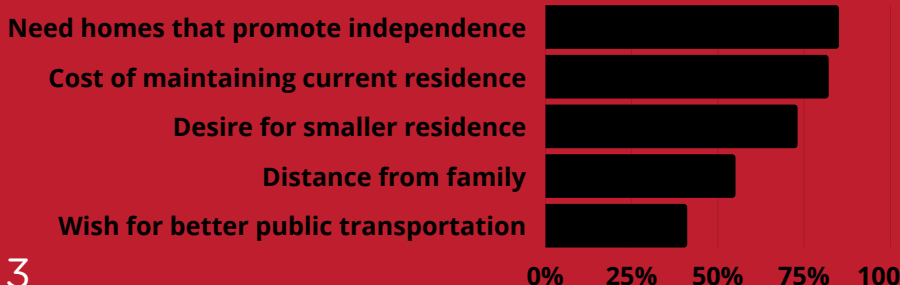
Prioritizes providing older adults the opportunity to live in their current home or community as long as possible. Communities need to have a variety of suitable housing options and support home modifications as needed.

AGING IN OWN HOME

91% indicate it is important or extremely important to stay in own home

36% indicate they need to make modifications to enable them to stay there as long as possible

Factors that make residents move from Wauwatosa



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



2. OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS

Prioritizes accessible indoor and outdoor public gathering places.



Community Identified Strengths



- Well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections
- Sidewalks in good condition and safe for pedestrians and accessible for wheelchairs/mobility devices
- Enough benches for resting in public areas like parks, along sidewalks and around public buildings

Community Identified Challenges



- Well-maintained, safe low-income housing
- Homes that are built with a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bed/ bath
- Affordable housing options for older adults of varying income levels such as older active adult communities, assisted living and communities with shared facilities/outdoor spaces

92% of respondents find Wauwatosa has well-maintained parks, and **89%** feel safe in the parks



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



3. TRANSPORTATION

Prioritizes access to additional transportation options besides driving (public transportation, neighborhoods safe for walking and biking, etc).

59% stated there is accessible and convenient public transportation that is **59%** affordable and **42%** timely

44% reported safe public transportation stops or areas that accessible, but only **28%** special transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults



Community Identified Strengths

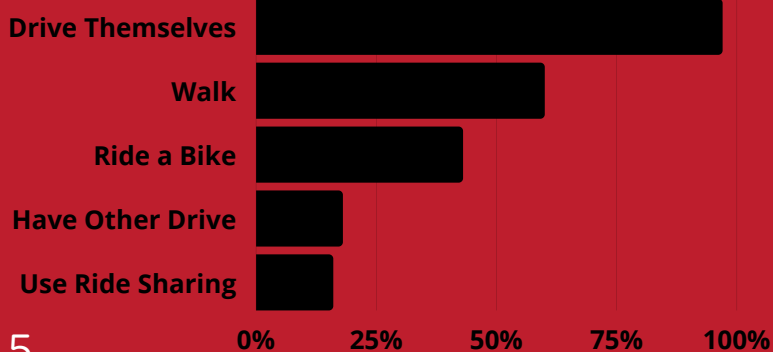
- Easy to read traffic signs
- Well maintained streets and bike paths

Community Identified Challenges

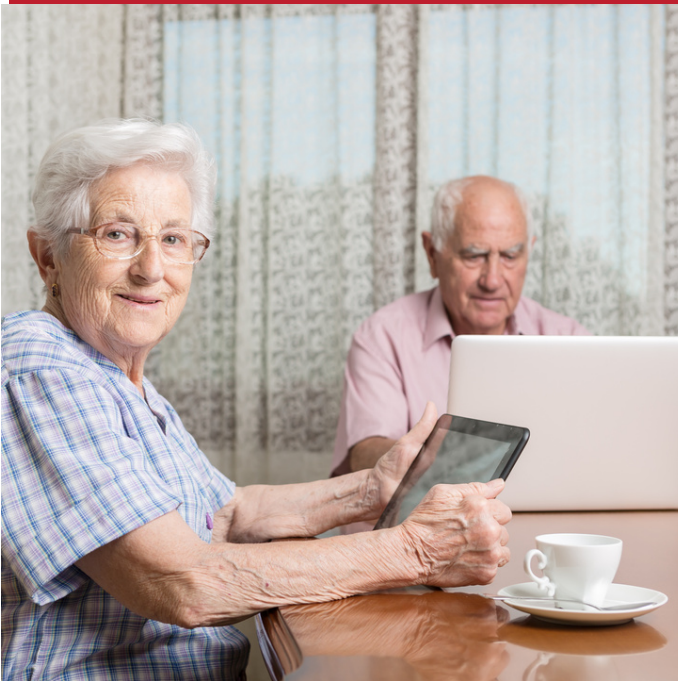
- Limited public transportation in some areas
- Access to free transportation for older adults



Getting Around the Community



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



4. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Prioritizes information sharing through a variety of accessible methods for those with and without access to technology.



95% - use help from family and friends to find resources and community information



Community Identified Strengths

- Free access to computers & internet in public places (72% rated as good or excellent)

Community Identified Challenges

- Lack of outreach, communications, resource lists, and services in Spanish (7%)
- Resources to increase computer/ internet skills
- Resources available for visually impaired older adult
- 13% Community information delivered in person to people who may have difficulty leaving their home



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



5. SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Prioritize decreasing isolation through availability & access of community social activities for older adults.

92% stated there are conveniently located entertainment venues in the community

47% reported few activities that offer senior discounts



Community Identified Strengths

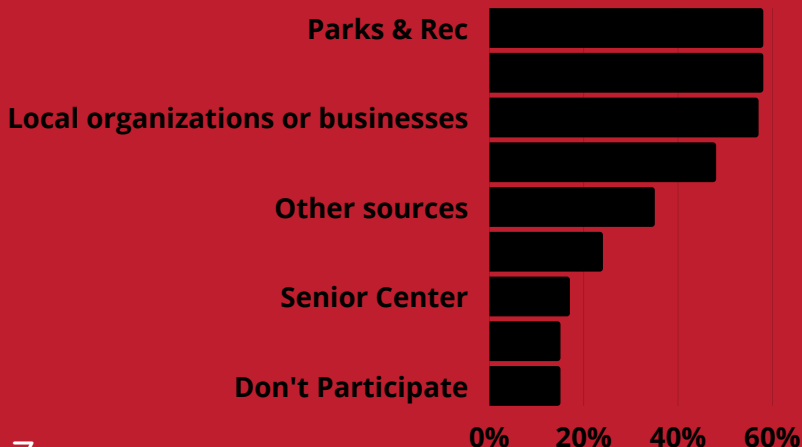
- Activities that involve both older and younger people
- Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies or passions



Community Identified Challenges

- Avenues to build community/reduce isolation
- Activities with senior discounts

Sources for Continuing Education/Self-Improvement



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



6. RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Prioritizes older adults feeling valued and included within their social networks.

Respondents noted high levels of social inclusion, however **17%** often felt left out, **14%** often felt isolated, and **19%** often felt a lack of companionship

Respondents reported contact with family, friends or neighbors who do not live with them

- **57%** Daily
- **33%** Several times a week
- **6%** Once a week
- **3%** Once every 2-3 weeks



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



The majority of respondents were **not sure** about the range of flexible job opportunities for older adults (**59%**), job training opportunities for older adults (**79%**), and policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work for as long as they want or need regardless of age (**73%**).

7. CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

Prioritizes opportunities for older adults to engage in work for pay or volunteering in a variety of way.



Community Identified Strengths

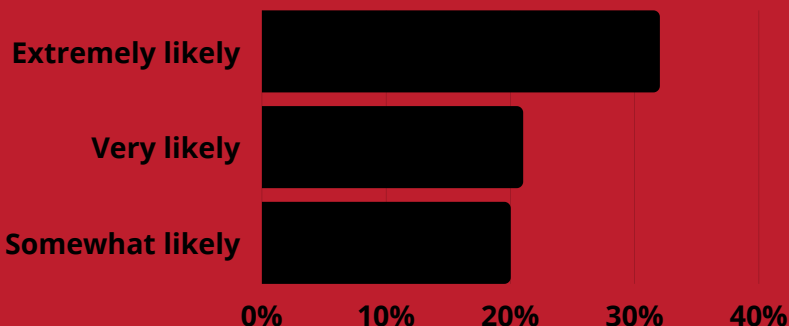
- Range of volunteer opportunities that are easy to find
- Volunteer training opportunities
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making



Community Identified Challenges

- Opportunities for older adults (79%), jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities

Respondents wanting to work as long as possible rather than choosing to retire



AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY



8. HEALTH SERVICES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Prioritizes access and affordability of quality healthcare services available in the community and in the home.

Community Identified Strengths



- 74% Conveniently located health and social services
- 62% Affordable fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults
- 56% Affordable health and wellness programs and classes such as nutrition, smoking cessation, weight control



Community Identified Challenges

- 28% A service that provides people to help older adults easily find and access health and supportive services



28% Health care professionals who speak different languages

22% Affordable home health care providers

NEXT STEPS FOR WAUWATOSA'S AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



- **Immediate Actions:**
 - Community leaders will prioritize which of the 8 domains of livability need further action in Wauwatosa
- **Next 2-3 Years Actions:**
 - Based on this prioritization, an Action Plan will be developed with steps for implementation.
 - Progress on the Action Plan will be monitored and updates will be made to the Action Plan as needed to continue building on this work.

Prepared By:

