

Ravenna

Nebraska's Hometown Hideaway

Community Needs Assessment Survey

Ravenna, Nebraska

February 2023



Conducted By:
South Central Economic Development District, Inc.



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City of Ravenna Community Needs Assessment Survey

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Introduction

Local governments that take the time to understand and respond to the needs of their constituents are able to lead their communities into a future that is envisioned and supported by the people. The accurate identification of a community's needs and priorities is an important investment that will provide meaningful information as well as a method for engaging passionate, committed residents. The information gained and engagement created by a Community Needs Assessment Survey will assist local officials and leaders with establishing a benchmark for ongoing community participation and create a legacy for future generations.

The Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS) is an important first step in the path that leads to ongoing community development and growth. The CNAS process produces information that enables a community to systematically set and achieve goals. Ravenna completed a previous community survey in 2014 conducted by another entity. This document contains the results from their first comprehensive CNAS, conducted in November, 2022.

In order to ensure that the CNAS provides meaningful information and community engagement, the survey process included the following steps:

- * formed a survey question selection committee that represented multiple community interests such as school, business owners, and the local government;
- * provided appropriate publicity to ensure all households were aware of the importance of the survey;
- * hosted a town hall meeting for the presentation of results and inclusion of residents in priority identification and goal setting.

The City of Ravenna contacted the South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD) to request its support to complete a 2022-2023 CNAS. With the guidance and support of SCEDD, electronic and paper survey questionnaires were created. A link to the electronic survey was disseminated and placed on the City of Ravenna's website landing page, Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce Facebook pages, and posters were placed in prominent business and community buildings with a QR code providing a link to scan with a smartphone to complete the survey. Additionally, paper surveys were made available to residents at the library, City Office, Senior Center, and Economic Development Office as well as notices in the local newspaper. SCEDD compiled the completed surveys, conducted data analysis, and prepared the report that follows.

Methodology

The questionnaire was divided into six areas of interest:

- Demographics
- Community/City
- Housing
- Business & Economic Development
- Child Care
- Education

The electronic form of the survey was available from October 25th through November 15th. The City publicized the link for households to complete the survey through their City website and social media, Ravenna Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce pages, in addition to press releases in the local newspaper. Survey respondents were made aware they could only complete one survey per household. Only one survey was accepted from each Internet Protocol (IP) address with the exception of surveys that were completed at the public library.

Sixty paper surveys were delivered to Ravenna on October 25th, and divided between the City office, Senior Center, Library, and Economic Development Office delivered to the senior living facility. These surveys were made available for residents who preferred to complete a paper survey or who did not have access to the electronic survey. Paper surveys were required to be returned to the City office no later than the close of business of Tuesday, November 15th. The completed paper surveys were entered by City or Economic Development staff through an electronic link.

Completed surveys were processed by SCEDD, utilizing the Survey Monkey software tool which integrates statistical analysis. Additional statistical comparison and analysis was completed by SCEDD staff to create the report and final presentation of data.

Responses were gathered in a variety of formats including **multiple choice, yes/no, and rating scales.**

- **Ratings scales were either *Excellent=4, Good=3, Fair=2, Poor=1* or *Definitely=4, Probably=3, Probably Not=2, Definitely Not=1*.**
- **Responses to the four choices available on each rating scale were a weighted averaged to arrive at an overall rating.**
- **In addition to the four responses outlined, *don't know or no opinion* could be selected; *don't know or no opinion* responses were omitted from the final results.**

The following information provides a snapshot for the community of Ravenna according to the 2020 Decennial U.S. Census. Ravenna has a population of 1,441, with 601 total households estimated. The 187 responses generated to the CNAS represents a response rate of 27.97%. Sixteen (16) respondents did not indicate their zip code or if they lived within city limits, and 3 respondents indicated their home zip code was other than Ravenna, representing 1.8% of total respondents.

	Ravenna City Limits
Total Households*	601
Less Vacancies*	79
Total Occupied Households*	522
Total Surveys Returned	187
Total Surveys Returned (w/ in City Limits)	146
Response Rate (w/in City Limits)	27.97%

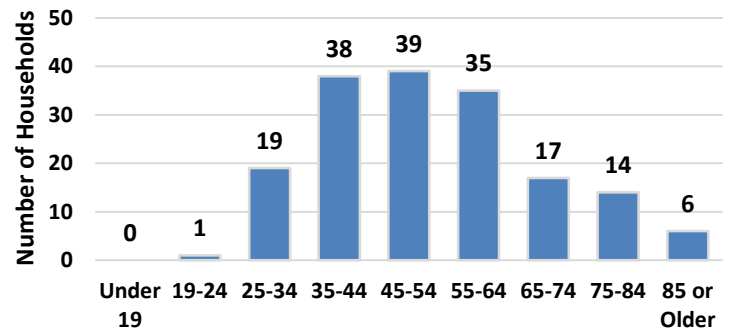
*Source: 2020 Decennial U.S. Census

Demographics

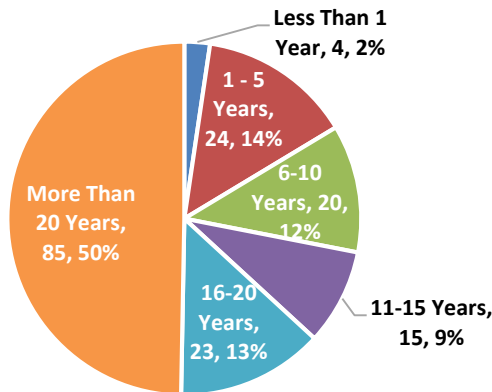
Demographic questions provide an overview of the make-up of a community, based on age, number of years in the community, commute to work, combined annual household income, and number of members in a household.

The first demographic question asked the age of the head-of-household. Three age groups were nearly equally represented with prevalent age groups as 35-44 at 23%, 45-54 at 23%, and 55-64 at 21%. The head-of-households age 65 or over comprised a combined 22% of respondents. The least represented age groups were 19-24 with one respondent representing .6%, followed by 25-34 age group representing 11% of respondents.

What is the age of your head-of-household?



How many years have you lived in Ravenna?



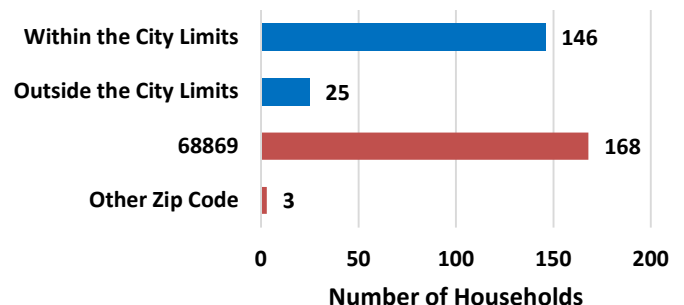
Respondents were asked how long they have lived in the Ravenna area. Of the 187 households represented, 171 answered this question. Of those who responded, a majority, 50%, have lived in the Ravenna area for more than 20 years. Only 2% had moved to the area within the past year and 14% had been living there 1-5 years, 12% have lived in the area 6-10 years, 9% for 11-15 years, and 13% have lived in the area for 16-20 years.

Respondents were asked to indicate if they lived within or outside the city limits. One

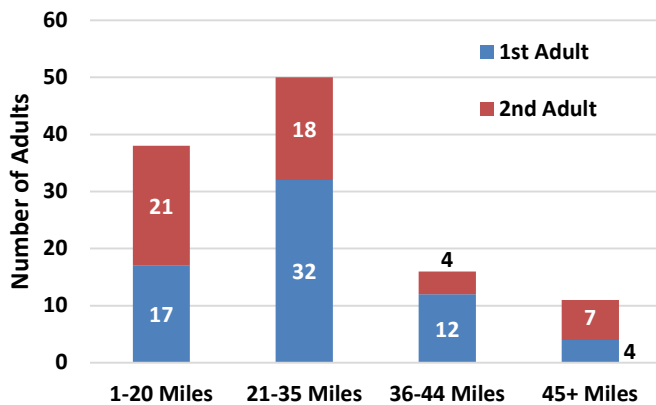
hundred and forty-six respondents (146), representing 85% of responses, indicated they lived within city limits, with 25 respondents, representing 15%, indicating they lived outside city limits. Sixteen (16) did not provide a response, which likely impacts the percent of in-town resident responses. Respondents then indicated their home address zip code, showing 168 respondents at 98% had a Ravenna, 68869 zip code, and 3 respondents indicated a home zip code other than Ravenna.

Do you live within city limits or outside city limits?

Is Ravenna your home zip code?



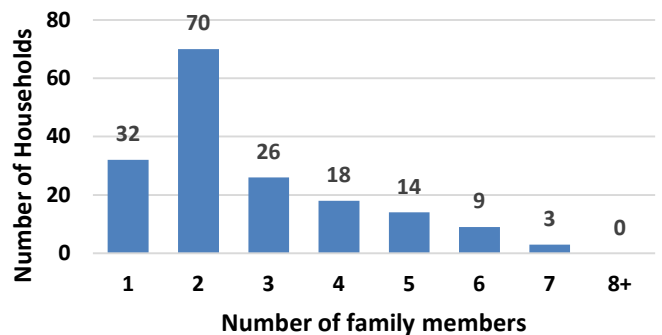
If you work outside of Ravenna, how far do you commute one way?



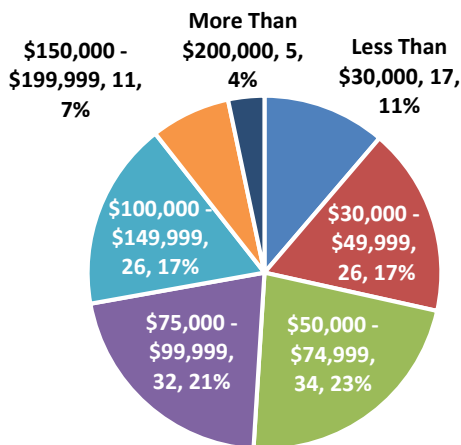
Households were asked to identify how far they commuted to work (one way) if they worked outside of the Ravenna area. Each household could report for up to two individuals. There were 115 adults represented in the data shown who worked outside of the Ravenna area. 33% (38) of the respondents indicated they commuted 1-20 miles to work, 44% (50) drove 21-35 miles, 14% (16) drove 36 to 44 miles to work, and 7% (11) drove 45 miles or more to work one way.

The next question asked the number of family members living in the household. Of the 172 responses received, 40% (70) of the households in the Ravenna area were two-person households. 18.6% were one-person households, 15.1% three-person, 10.5% four-person, 8.1% five-person, 5.2% six-person, and only 1.7% (3) indicated they had 7 family members in the household, with none of the respondents having 8 or more in the household.

How many family members are in your household, including yourself?



What is the combined annual income of all family members living in your home?



The final demographic question asked for the combined annual household income with 151 respondents answering this question and 36 opting not to answer. The most common response was \$50,000-\$74,999 with 23% of households (34). Households' annual income less than \$30,000 was indicated by 11% (17), 17% (26) between \$30,000-\$49,999, 21% (32) with a household income \$75,000-\$99,999. On the high end of household income, 17% (26) of households indicated making \$100,000-\$149,999, 7% (11) making \$150,000-\$199,999, and 4% (5) households' income as making more than \$200,000.

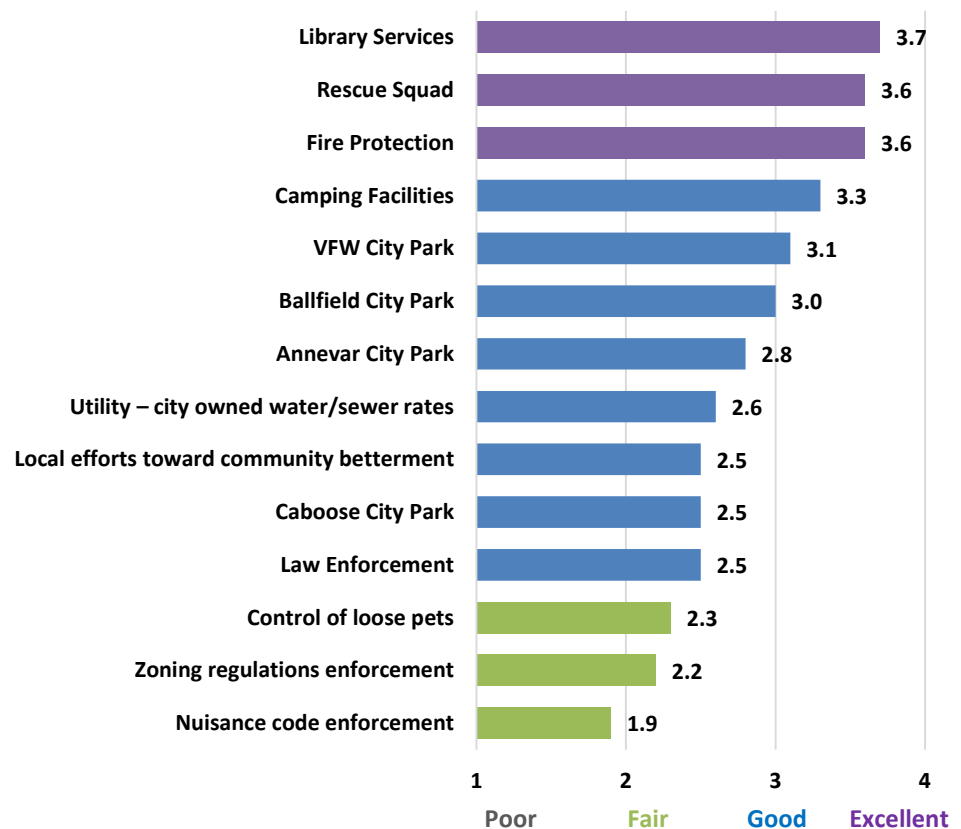
City/Community

This section of the survey addressed items specific to the local government as well as how residents felt about the community.

The adequacy of the Library Services, Rescue Squad and Fire Protection received the highest ratings of all services with 88% of respondents rating the Library Services as good or excellent, 90.3% rated the Rescue Squad as good or excellent, and 93% rated Fire Protection as good or excellent. These top three areas each received over 100 excellent ratings of adequacy. Camping facilities, VFW City Park, and Ballfield City Park were also rated favorably as 81%, 81%, and 72% respectively, as respondents rated these between the good or excellent rating for adequacy of attributes of the community.

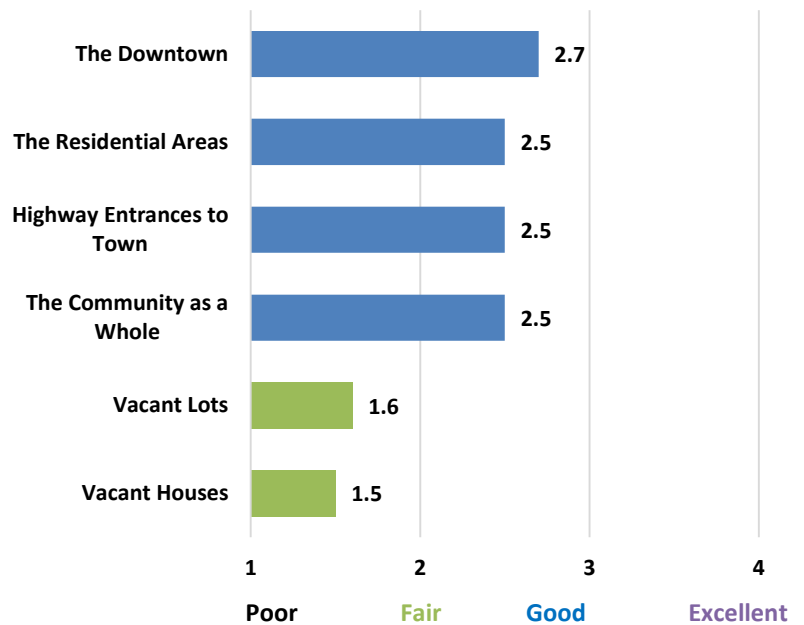
Annevar City Park was rated as overall good for a rating at 76%. City owned utility rates received 70% of respondents rating adequacy as fair to good. Local efforts toward community betterment received a similar rating of 71% of respondents indicating an adequacy of fair to good rating. The adequacy of the Caboose Park received an overall fair to good rating by 68%. Local enforcement of pets, zoning, and nuisance codes received the lowest ratings of adequacy. Control of loose pets received 64% ratings falling in the fair to good range. Zoning Regulation enforcement showed a fairly equitable split with 25% rating as good, 20% fair, 24% poor, and 25% indicating no opinion. Thirty-four (34) percent of respondents felt nuisance code enforcement was poor, with an overall 20% rating as fair. Nuisance code enforcement received the lowest adequacy score.

Please rate the adequacy of:



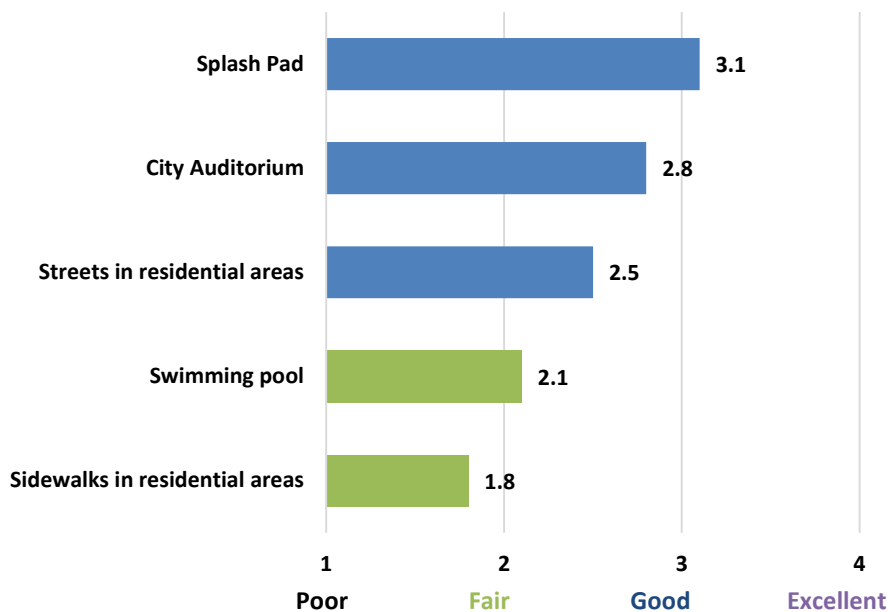
The general appearance of the community was also rated. The downtown received the highest ratings with 63% of respondents rating as excellent or good. The residential areas, highway entrances to town, and community as a whole overall received a good rating. A slight majority of respondents felt the community appearance as a whole was good or excellent with a combined 54% rating. Vacant houses and lots received the lowest general appearance ratings. Vacant Lots appearance received 83% of respondents (153) rating as fair to poor, and vacant houses received 85% of respondents (157) rating as poor.

Please rate the general appearance of:



Residents were also asked to rate the condition of additional city features. The splash pad received the highest ratings with 75% rating the condition overall as good. The City Auditorium received 68% rating overall as good for its condition, followed by 55% rating streets in residential areas as good.

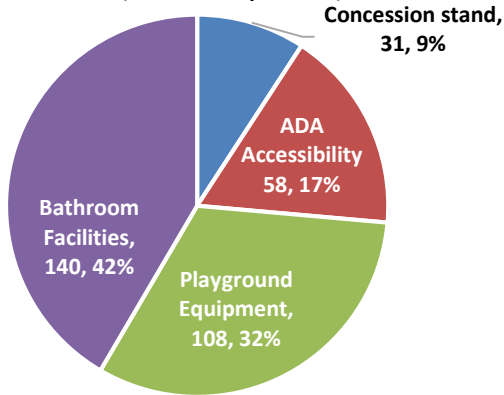
Please rate the condition of:



The areas receiving the lowest ratings for condition were the swimming pool with 55% rating it fair to poor condition, and the sidewalks in residential areas with 78% of respondents rating as fair to poor condition. The swimming pool and splash pad received the highest don't know or no opinion selections, at 26 and 20 respectively.

What improvements to City parks are most important to you?

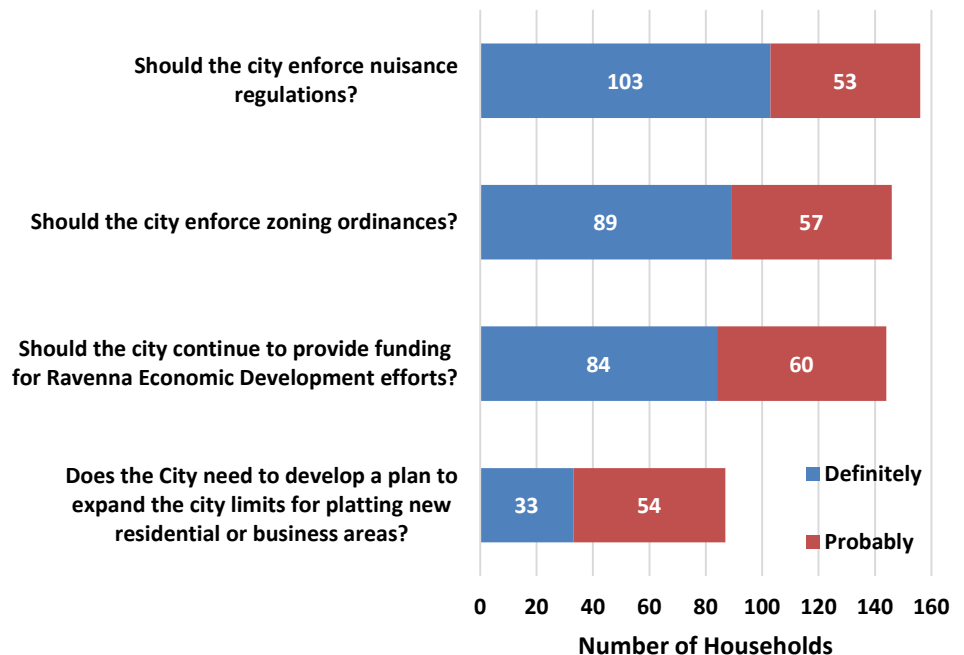
(Check up to 3)



When asked what improvements to City parks were most important, respondents could select up to 3 choices. 169 households provided a response to this question. Bathroom facilities was selected by 140 households as their top 3 choices, with Playground Equipment receiving 108 selections representing 32% of all households' top 3 choices. ADA Accessibility was selected by 58 households representing 17%. Concession Stand improvements was selected the least times with only 31 households ranking that in their top 3 choices of park improvements most important to them, representing 9%.

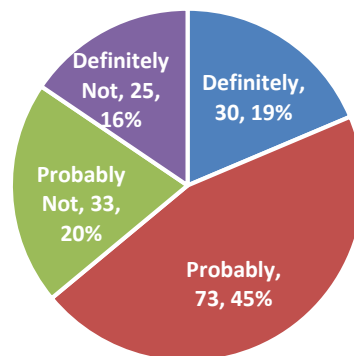
The next series of questions asked if the city should focus on specific areas. Strong support was evident in three of the four focus areas and these questions were of strong interest to residents with 185 answering. When asked if the city should enforce nuisance regulations, 103 respondents said definitely and 53 said probably representing a combined 86%. For the question, should the city enforce zoning ordinances, 89 responded definitely and 57 responded probably representing a combined 79%. Respondents were asked if the city should continue to provide funding for Ravenna Economic Development efforts, with 84 responding definitely, and 60 responding probably, representing a combined 78% of respondents supporting those efforts. The next question in this series asked respondents if the city needs to develop a plan to expand the city limits for platting new residential or business areas. The responses to the City developing a plan to expand city limits showed 52% (87) as definitely or probably in support. As a result, the question rating for developing a plan to expand city limits still showed a majority in support, but not as strong as support as the other possible areas of city focus.

City Efforts Focused on:

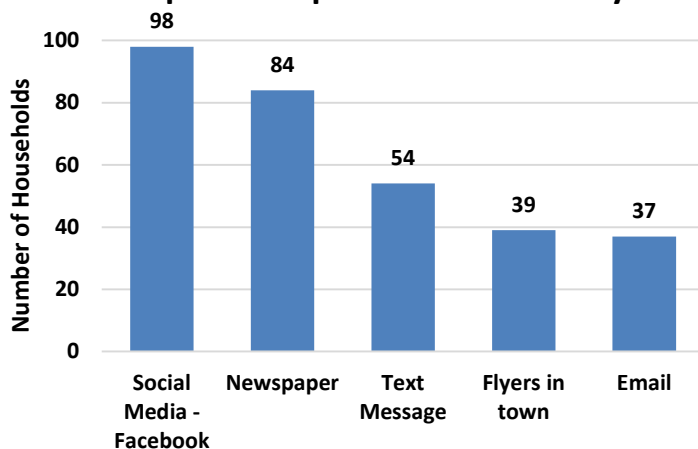


Residents were asked to identify whether they felt Ravenna encourages public participation – individuals having a voice regarding local government decisions. 161 households provided an opinion on this question, with 23 respondents indicating don't know or no opinion. A combined 103 respondents indicated definitely or probably representing 64%, which is a good indicator for city leadership. 33 stated probably not at 20%, and 25 at definitely not representing 16%.

Does Ravenna encourage public participation - individuals having a voice regarding local government decisions?



How would you like to receive info and important updates from the City?



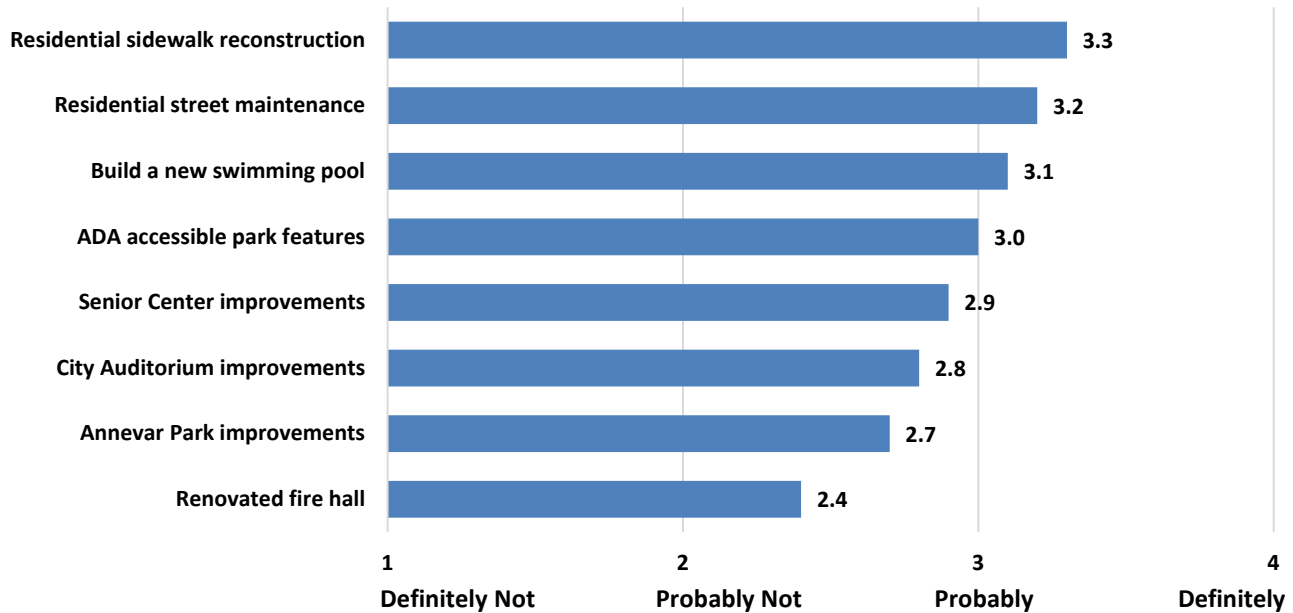
Respondents were asked how they would like to receive information and important updates from the city. 181 respondents provided an answer, with Social Media – Facebook receiving the most selections at 98 representing 54.1%, followed by 84 households selecting Newspapers as the method they would like to receive important information, representing 46.4%. Further down in popularity came text messages at 54, flyers in town at 39, followed closely by email at 37. The other

response indicated mail as the method they would like to receive information and important updates from the city. The variety of responses would indicate multiple formats are requested for sharing important city updates.

Respondents indicated if the following community projects were needed, selecting on a scale of definitely to definitely not for each project area. Residential sidewalk reconstruction, residential street maintenance, and building a new swimming pool rounded out the top 3 with the most household support, although many responses were scored closely. 158 households indicated residential street maintenance as definitely or probably a project that was needed. 150 households similarly indicated residential sidewalk reconstruction as a priority for a project when combining definitely or probably answers. Regarding building a new swimming pool as a needed project, 117 respondents indicated definitely or probably in support. The Senior Center improvements followed closely with 114 indicating definitely or probably a project that was needed. ADA accessible park features also had 114 responses as definitely or probably needed, and City Auditorium improvements at 110 households indicating definitely or probably needed. Seven of the eight suggested community projects were rated definitely or probably by a large majority of respondents. A combined 85 households indicated a renovated

fire hall was probably not or definitely not needed. The community project receiving the most “don’t know or no opinion” responses was to the ADA accessible park features at 35 households.

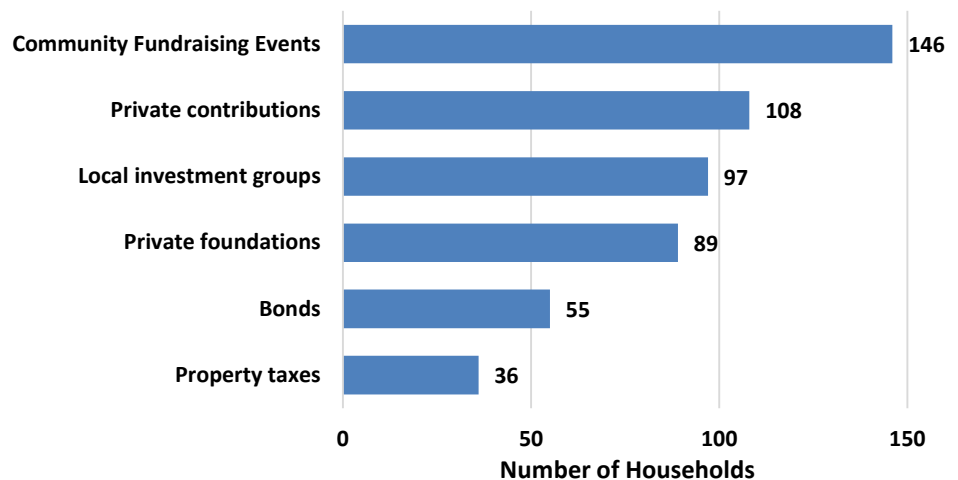
Are the following community projects needed in Ravenna?



Residents were asked if the City of Ravenna were to pursue partial funding for the above community projects through various state and federal sources, how should the City fund the local share of the projects. Respondents could check all options they felt should be pursued for funding, and 179 households responded. Of those responding, 146 indicated community fundraising should be

utilized as the preferred choice. Private contributions should be utilized in the opinion of 108 households, followed closely by local investment groups receiving 97 households then private foundations receiving 89 households. The wide array of choices indicates all funding sources might be considered by the City and would receive some support from the

If partial funding for the above-listed projects can be acquired from state & federal sources, how should Ravenna fund its share? (check all that apply)

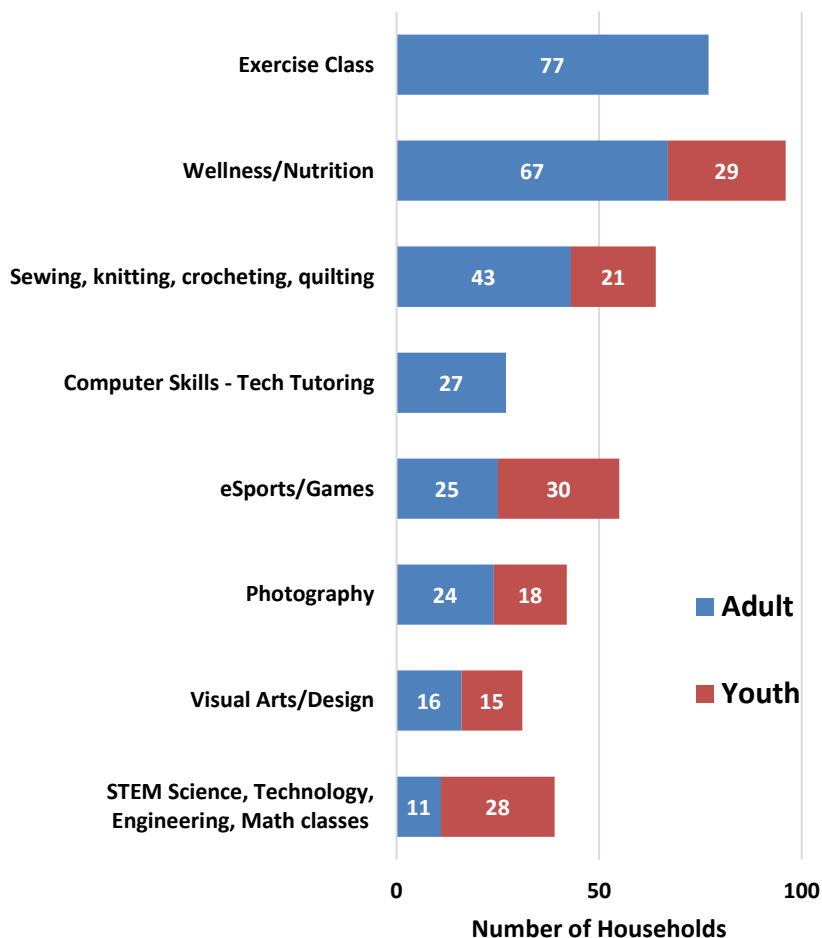


public. The least preferred funding options were Bonds with 55 households, and property taxes with 36 households.

The survey committee represented many community entities, and they were interested to discover what programs or education/enrichment classes might be of interest to both adult and youth residents. A total of 14 options were provided with 8 for adults, and 6 for youth, noting most of the same options were available to both youth and adult. Respondents could check all areas that were of interest to their household members with 124 households providing an opinion and 63 skipping this section.

The top priorities of programs or education/enrichment classes for adults were exercise class with 77 households selecting this option. Wellness/nutrition programs was the top overall option, selected by 67 for adults and 29 for youth. Computer skills-tech tutoring was only offered as an adult program option, and selected by 27 households. The top youth programming option selected was eSports/gaming league/club receiving 30, followed closely by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes indicated by 28. Adult STEM programs was selected by 11 households. Sewing, knitting, crocheting, and quilting programs received 43 households for adult possible patrons and 21 youth. Twenty-five (25) households had adults interested in eSports/games/leagues, followed closely by photography for adults at 24 and youth at 18. Visual arts/design were selected by 16 households for adults, and 15 youth for programs of interest.

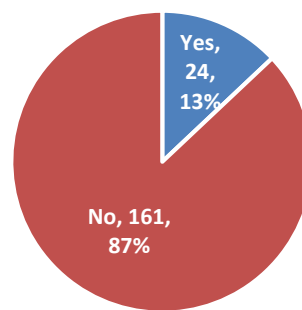
If offered in the community, which of the following programs would you utilize?
(Check all that apply to your household interests - Youth & Adult if applicable)



The next section of questions regarding Community concerned specific local issues to the Ravenna Area.

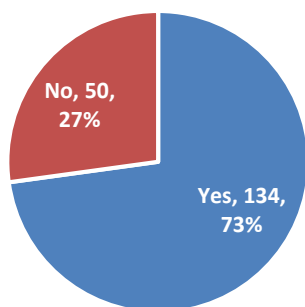
Respondents were asked if at least one time within the last 90 days, they had worried about running out of food before they could afford more. 87% (161) stated that they had not been worried within the past 90 days about running out of food. Twenty-four (24) households representing 13%, responded yes, indicating concern within the past 90 days about running out of food before they

At least one time within the last 90 days, I/we have worried whether our food would run out before we could afford more.



Are you aware of the Food Pantry - located inside the Methodist Church?

could afford to buy more.

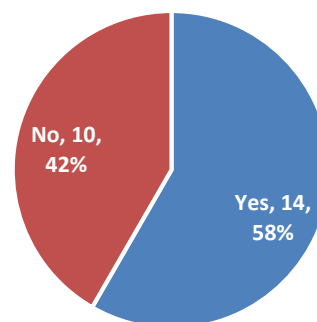


Continuing the line of local issues, residents were asked if they were aware that Ravenna had a food pantry located inside the Methodist Church. The majority of respondents indicated that they were aware of the existence of the local food pantry, representing 73%.

However, of the 24

households that answered yes regarding having food insecurity in the past 90 days, 10 of those 24 households, or 42% of those with food insecurity concerns were not aware of the food pantry. This indicates additional awareness is needed on the pantry for those in need. In comparing the demographic household data to this response, these 24 households included 2 children ages 0 to preschool, and 14 children school-age through high school.

Of those households (24) indicating food insecurity, awareness of food pantry location:

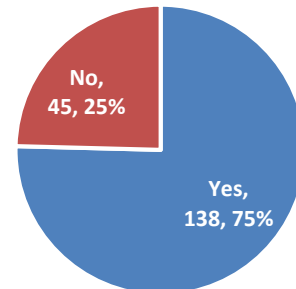


Senior Center

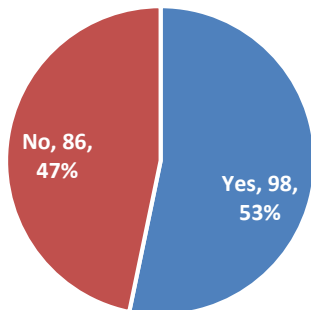
The next series of questions were about the local Senior Center. Respondents were informed the Grand Eatery at the Senior Center, offered lunch available Monday-Friday for all ages with a 24-hour advance notice. The Senior Center encourages in-person dining to strengthen community connections.

Then respondents were asked if they were aware Senior Center meal delivery was available for those age 60+ or for those with mobility needs. One hundred and thirty-eight (138) respondents were aware of the meal delivery option, representing 75%, with 45 responding they were not aware of this option representing 25%.

Are you aware Senior Center meal delivery is available for those age 60+ or for those with mobility needs?



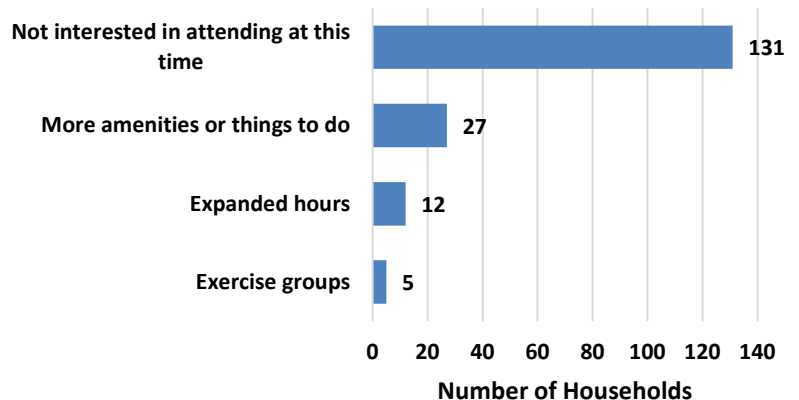
Did you know the Senior Center monthly newsletter can be mailed to you by signing up at the Center or emailing the Center?



Respondents were asked if they knew the Senior Center’s monthly newsletter can be mailed to their household by signing up at the Center or emailing the Center. Ninety-eight respondents (98), representing 53% said they were aware, but close to half of the respondents at 47% (86) indicated they were not aware of the option to receive the newsletter. The numbers of all ages who were not aware of the availability of the newsletter, implies this could be promoted more prominently.

All survey respondents, regardless of age, were asked what would encourage them to visit the Senior Center more often, and had multiple responses to choose from. When this question was compared to the age of the household, 72 respondents were over that age of 55. Forty-two (42) households indicated they were not interested in attending at this time. Sixteen (16) households indicated more amenities or things to do would encourage them to visit, while 4 indicated expanded hours, and 3 said exercise groups. Nine (9) other responses varied and included more space, pickle ball court, planned social events for families or couples, having professionals come in to speak, and being too busy or not thinking about it.

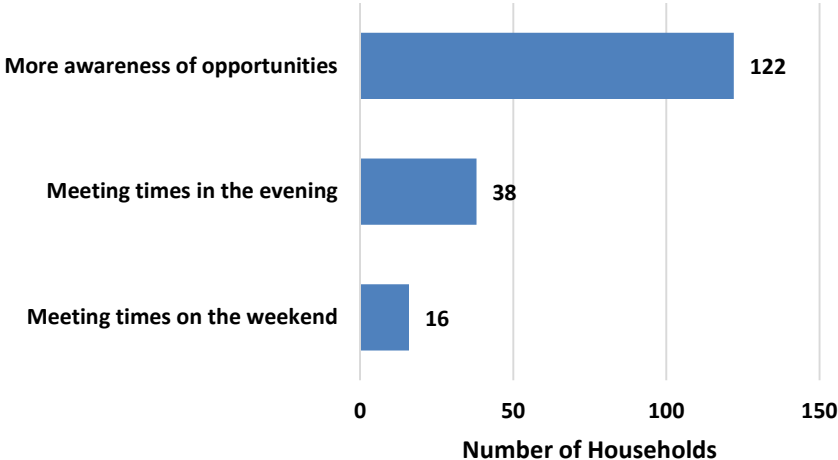
What would encourage you to visit the Senior Center more often?



Community Events & Facility

A statement listing community events currently hosted, including Hometown Holiday, Garage Sales, Junk Jaunt, July 4th, and Annevar Days, led into the next question. It was stated more volunteers were needed to continue making these events possible. The question was asked,

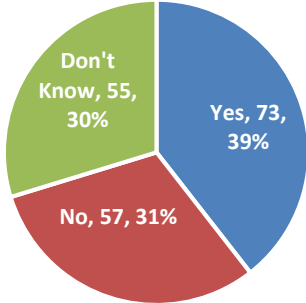
What would encourage you to volunteer (at community events)?



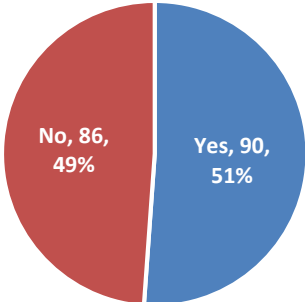
“What would encourage you to volunteer?” An overwhelming 80%, representing 122 responding households, indicated more awareness of opportunities would encourage them to volunteer. Meeting times in the evening received 38 responses, and meeting times on the weekend received 16 responses, with 25 households providing various ‘other’ responses.

The next questions in the Community section asked residents about the community spaces. Respondents were asked if the city should investigate the development of a new community facility, and 40% or 73 respondents stated yes, followed closely by 31% or 57 respondents saying no, and nearly the same percentage at 30% or 55 respondents,

Should the city investigate the development of a new community facility?



Would you be willing to volunteer your labor to help renovate current community spaces to meet the identified needs?

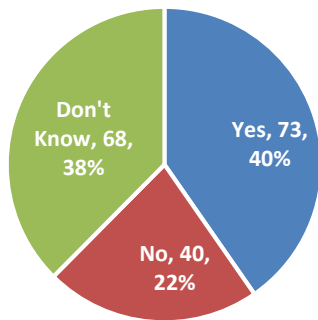


indicated they did not know. With a close tally of responses, this would indicate further community discussions may be needed to clarify the community facility need.

Respondents were then asked if they would be willing to volunteer their labor to help renovate current community spaces to meet the identified needs. Ninety (90) households

responded yes representing 51%, and similarly 86 indicated no, they would not be willing to volunteer. The email address to the economic development office was then provided for respondents to directly email their own contact information for possible volunteer efforts.

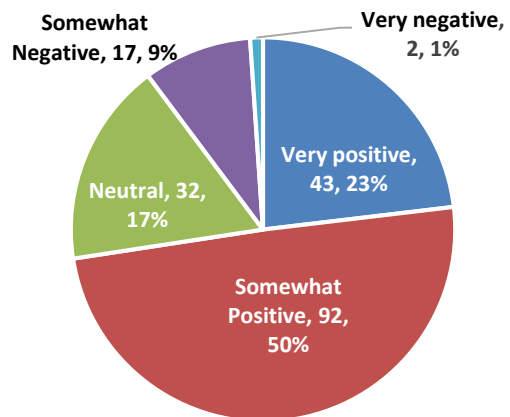
Would you contribute to a fund drive for a new community facility?



Residents were next asked if they would contribute to a fund drive for a new community facility. Seventy-three (73) households responded yes representing 40%, 40 responded no representing 22%, and 68 indicated they did not know if they would contribute to a fund drive, representing 38% of responses. These results would also indicate benefit around additional community conversations for the community facility future.

Residents of the Ravenna area were asked, “Overall, how do you feel about our community?” Respondents could select from a 5-point scale of very positive to very negative. Overall, 73% of 186 respondents felt very positive or somewhat positive about their community.

Overall, how do you feel about Ravenna?

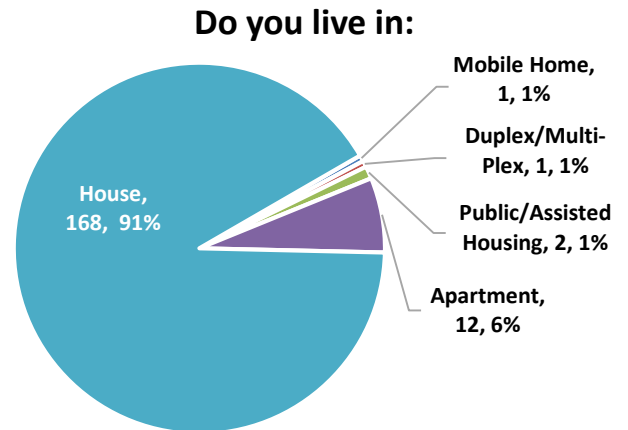


The follow-up question to this asked respondents to indicate why they feel that way about Ravenna. One-hundred and nineteen (119) households provided a response, found at the end of this report.

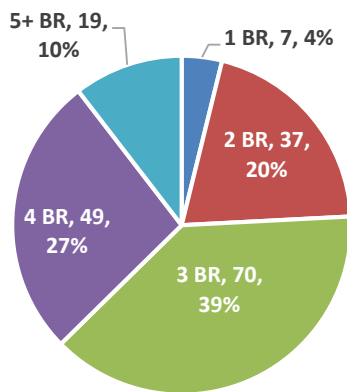
Housing

The next section was geared toward identifying several types of housing needs in Ravenna.

The first question asked respondents about the type of home they live in. 91% of respondents said they lived in a house representing 168 households. Twelve (12) households represented 6% living in apartments, with public/assisted housing represented by 2 (1%), and 1 household each representing less than 1% for a mobile home and duplex/multi-plex.



How many bedrooms are in your home?

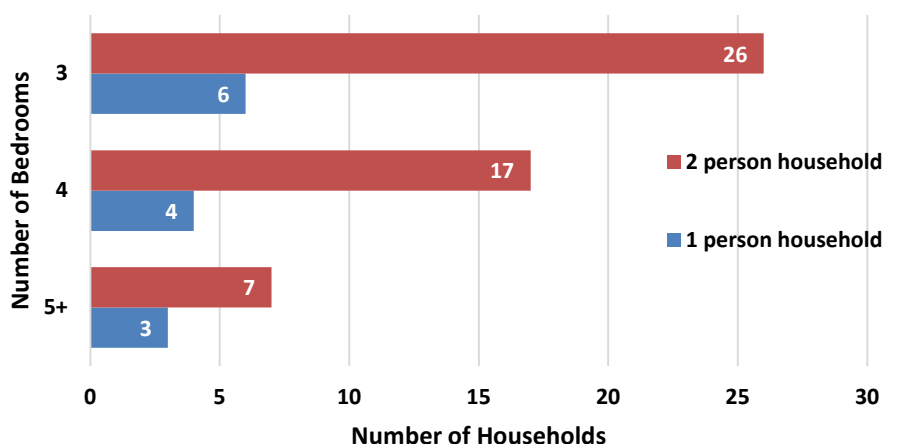


Households were then asked about the number of bedrooms in their home. 4% had one bedroom in their home, 20% had two bedrooms, and 39% said that they have three bedrooms making it the most common response. 27% had four bedrooms, 10% indicated their residence had five or more bedrooms.

The data results for the number of people in each household was compared to the number of bedrooms in the home. This

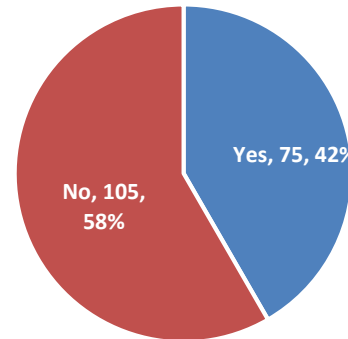
cross-tabulation of data is helpful in visualizing how many households have more bedrooms than residents, and who may consider transitioning to a smaller home if options were available. There were 32 households of 1 or 2 people, that had 3 bedrooms. Twenty-one (21) households of 1 or 2 people had 4 bedrooms, with 10 households of 1 or 2 having 5 plus bedrooms.

Number of 1 & 2 member households with 3-5+ bedrooms

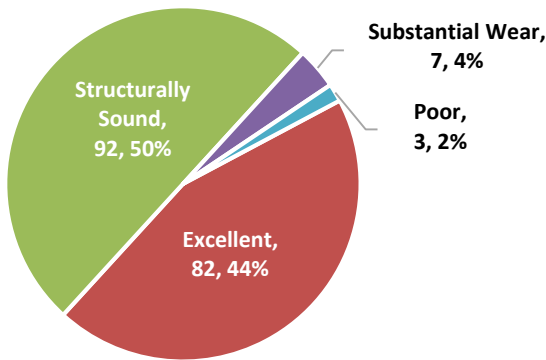


Households that spend more than 30% of their income toward housing (rent/mortgage plus utilities) are often considered to be cost burdened by their housing costs. Forty-two (42) percent, or 75 households of 180, reported spending more than 30% of their income toward housing.

Do you pay more than 30% of your income towards housing (rent/mortgage plus utilities)?



Rate the condition of your residence:



Respondents were asked to rate the condition of their residence. Only 3 households indicated their home was in overall unsatisfactory or poor condition having multiple issues. Seven (7) indicated their residence to have substantial wear having one major issue and rating as fair. Ninety-two (92) households indicated their home was structurally sound only needing

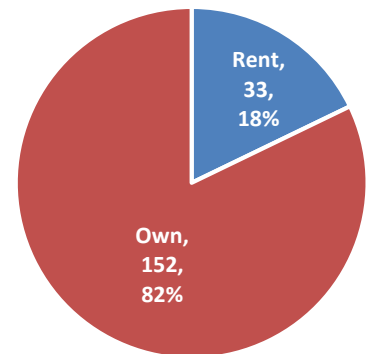
minor repairs, while 82 indicated their home to be in excellent condition. A combined 94% of respondents believed their home to be in either excellent or structurally sound condition.

Conditions of housing are described typically in universal terms in Nebraska housing reports, as:

- * Excellent, solid roof and foundation, contributes positively to housing stock of community;
- * Structurally sound, may need minor repairs such as shingles, paint, concrete steps or new doors;
- * Substantial wear, one major issue such as sagging roof, missing/rotted siding, rotting windows, sagging porch;
- * Overall unsatisfactory, multiple issues such as crumbling foundation, broken/rotted windows and doors, sagging roof.

Households were asked if they owned or rented their home. 82% of 185 households responded they owned their home while 18% indicated they were renting.

Do you rent or own your home?

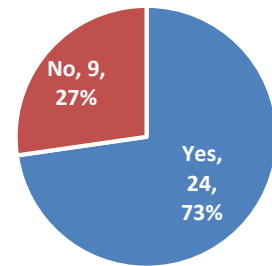


Renters

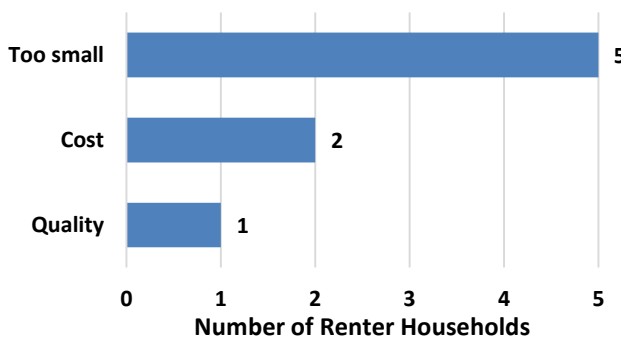
The next section of housing questions was specific to renters.

Renters were asked if their current rental met their needs. Of the 33 who responded, 73% indicated that their current rental met their needs and 27% said that their current rental did not meet their needs.

Does your rental meet your needs?



If no, please indicate the primary reason:

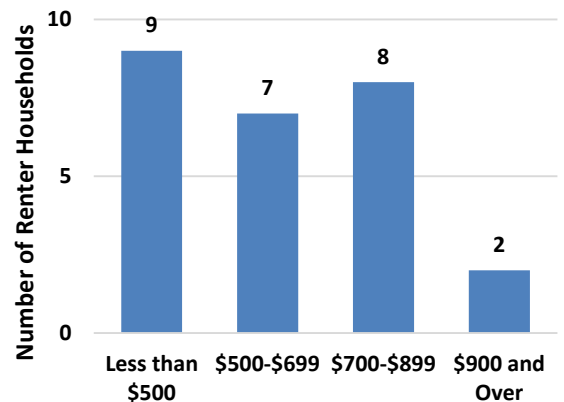


Respondents who indicated their rental did not meet their needs were asked the primary reason: too small, quality, or other. Ten respondents indicated that their current rental did not meet their needs. Five of these respondents indicated that their rental was too small, 2 indicated cost was the reason for not meeting their needs, and 1 respondent indicated quality as a reason for their rental not meeting their needs. Two respondents provided 'other' as a response, stating they 'would like a garage', and another that they 'needed a fenced

in yard'.

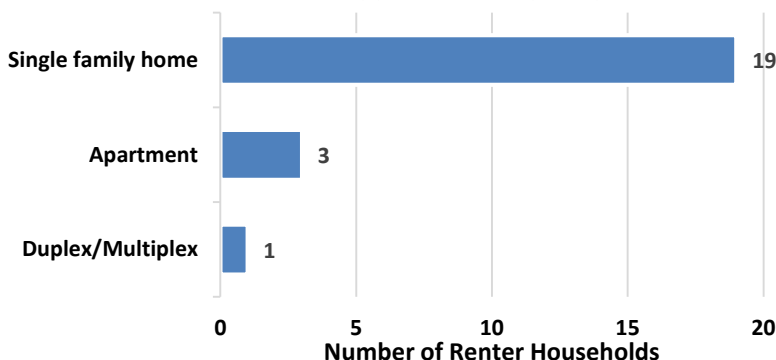
The next question asked renters how much they paid for rent on a monthly basis. Nine (9) renters indicated they pay less than \$500 a month. Seven (7) respondents pay \$500-\$699 per month, 8 renters indicated monthly rent in the range of \$700 – \$899. Two (2) households indicated they paid over \$900 per month in rent.

What are you currently paying for rent on a monthly basis?



Renters were asked about the type of rental housing they would prefer in Ravenna, if other

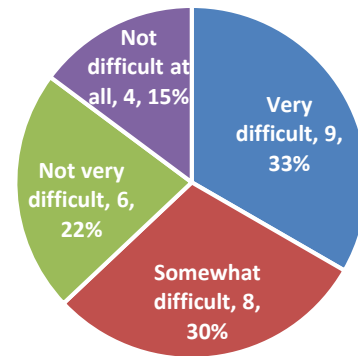
If other rental housing were available in Ravenna, which type would you prefer?



options were available. Of the 27 households that responded, 19 said they would prefer a single family home. Three (3) would prefer an apartment, and 1 respondent expressed an interest in a duplex/multi-plex. Four did not have a preference for a rental housing type.

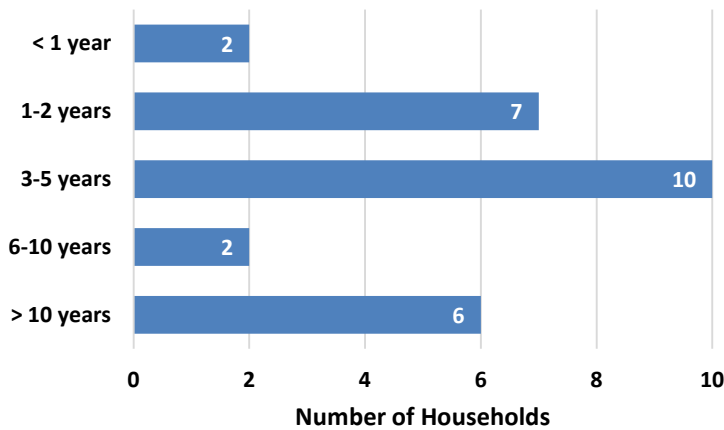
Renters were asked about the difficulty finding their current rental. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) indicated it was very difficult or somewhat difficult to find their current rental. Thirty-seven (37) percent indicated it was either not very difficult or not difficult at all to find their rental.

How difficult was it to find your current rental?



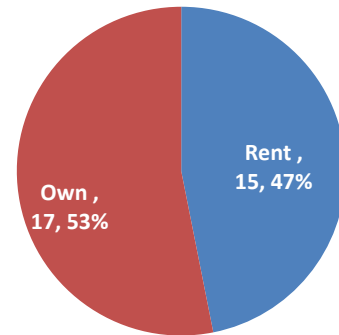
Current renters were asked how long they planned to continue renting. Of the 27 total respondents, 2 said they only plan on renting for less than a year. Seven plan on renting for 1-2 years, and 10 indicated 3-5 years. Two respondents indicated they plan on renting for 6-10 years and 6 plan to rent for more than ten years.

How long do you plan to continue renting?

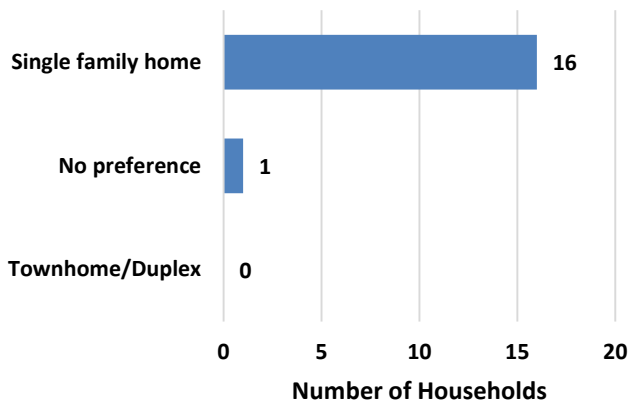


Residents who currently rent were asked if they preferred to own or rent. Of the 32 renter households responding, 15 indicated they preferred to continue renting, with 17 indicating they prefer to own a home.

Renters: Do you prefer to own or rent?



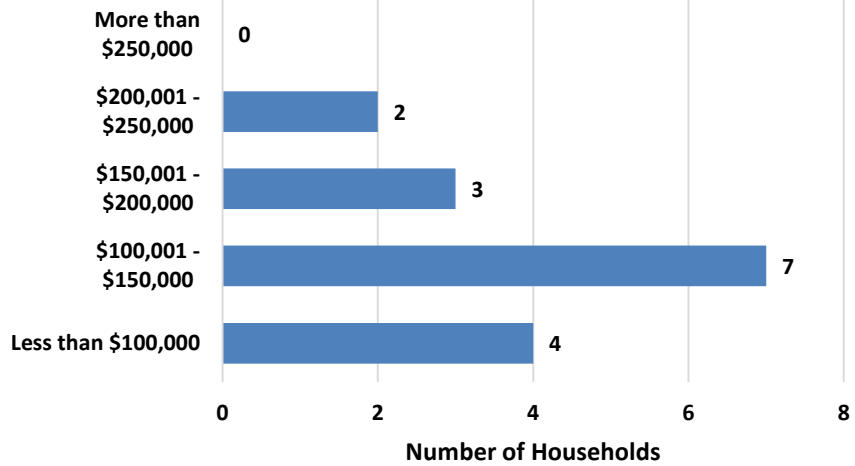
Which type of housing would you prefer to own?



When asked what type of housing they would prefer to own, 17 households responded, 16 indicating that a single family home was their preference for housing to own and 1 had no preference, with townhome/duplex not selected by any of the responding renter households.

The households who currently rent but prefer to own were asked to specify the desired price range they would be looking for in a new residence. Of the 16 that answered the question, 4 chose less than \$100,000, 7 chose \$100,000 - \$150,000, 3 chose \$150,001-\$200,000, 2 chose \$201,001-250,000 and no households chose more than \$250,000.

For Renters that prefer to own: Price Range for Purchasing a Home



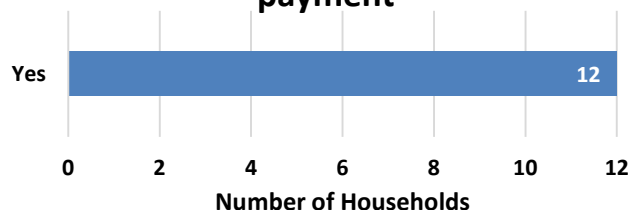
Barriers to ownership for renters preferring to own



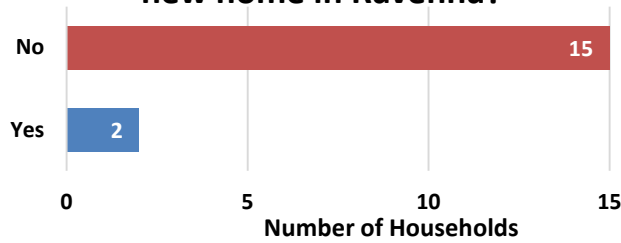
These 16 households that rent but prefer to own were asked to identify all barriers to ownership, with 14 providing a response; multiple options could be selected on a scale of definitely, probably, probably not, to definitely not. Fourteen (14) indicated the barrier to owning was definitely or probably due to lack of housing in their price range. Lack of down payment was a barrier indicated by 10 definitely and 2 probably, with lack of available housing indicated as definitely by 5, and probably by 7. Six (6) indicated the lack of an available lot/building site was a barrier. Two households indicated an 'other' barrier to ownership commenting that their current housing was provided by an employer, and another household commented too old.

Renters that preferred to own were asked if they would be interested in a government-backed down payment loan. Of the 14 that answered, 12 said yes, they would be interested.

Interested in a government-backed loan requiring no down payment



Are you considering building a new home in Ravenna?



The final question for renters asked if they were considering building a new home in Ravenna. Fifteen (15) said no, and 2 indicated yes.

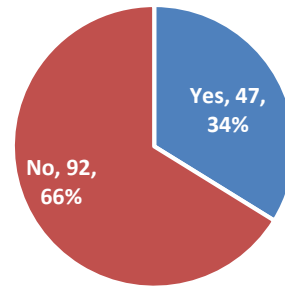
Owners

The next set of housing questions was directed to homeowners only.

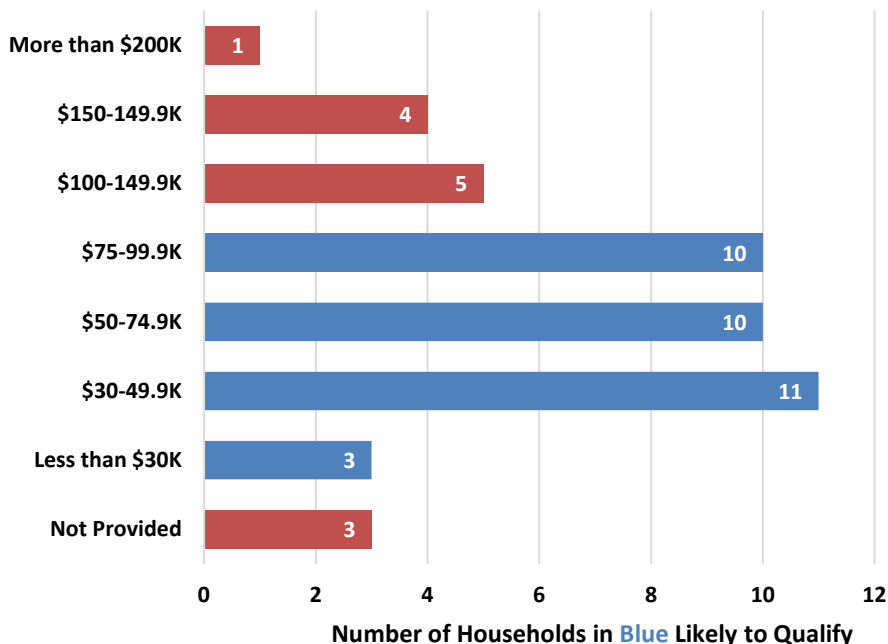
Homeowners were asked if they were interested in cost-sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation improvements of their home. Of the 139 total responses, 47 (34%) of homeowner respondents indicated “yes” they would be interested in cost-sharing assistance, 92 households responded no.

Further analysis was utilized to determine, of the 47 homeowners who indicated interest in cost sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation improvements, how many would be income eligible. Respondents’ answers to the household size and household income questions were compared to their interest in rehabilitation assistance and the 2022 Income

Willing to apply for cost sharing assistance to complete rehabilitation of your home

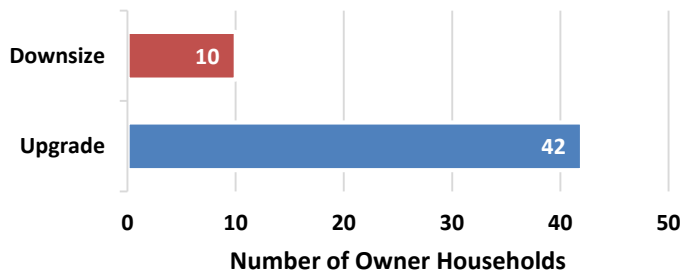


Of those interested in cost-sharing assistance- household incomes that may qualify in blue:



Limits (up to 120% of Area Median Income, as defined by Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund) as of June 1, 2022. Households would likely qualify if their combined income was less than \$99.9K, depending on household size. Of the 47 who indicated interest in cost-sharing assistance, approximately 34 homeowners, as indicated in blue in income categories of ‘Less than \$30K’ through ‘\$75-99.9K’ would likely be income eligible for a rehabilitation program based on their household income.

Have you considered changing your residence to upgrade or downsize?

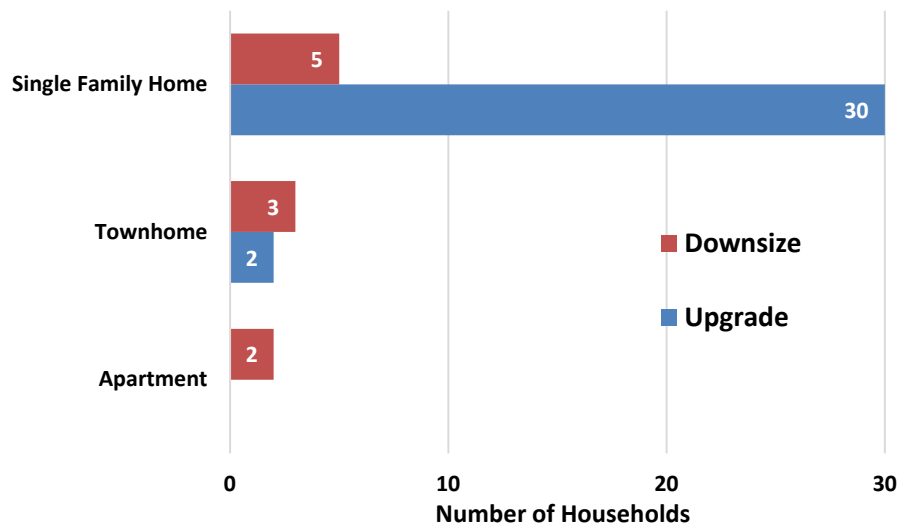


Homeowners were asked if they had considered changing their residence to either upgrade or downsize. Fifty-two (52) respondents had considered changing their residence, with 42 wanting to upgrade and 10 wanting to downsize.

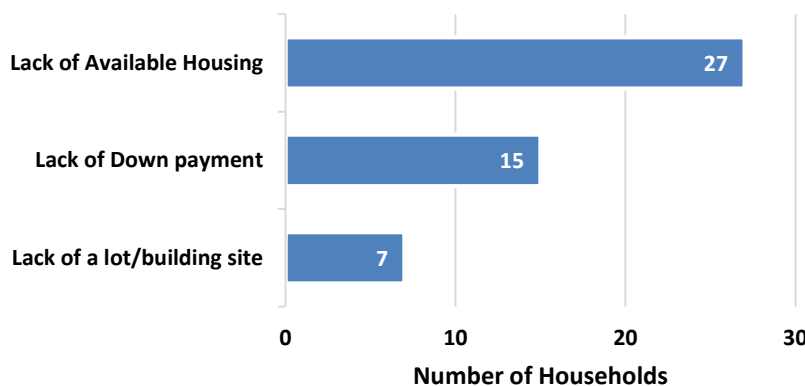
Homeowners considering changing their residence were also asked about their preferred type of housing. Single family home was the most preferred response with 35 households indicating that

selection. A further break down of the numbers compares this response to the question if they were interested in upgrading or downsizing their residence, showing 30 of the 35 would seek to upgrade their residence. Regarding townhomes, 3 homeowners seeking to downsize and 2 seeking to upgrade would prefer that housing style. Two households would prefer to downsize to an apartment. These results would indicate traditional 3-4-bedroom single family homes would be in most demand.

Type of Housing Preferred by Owners Seeking to Change



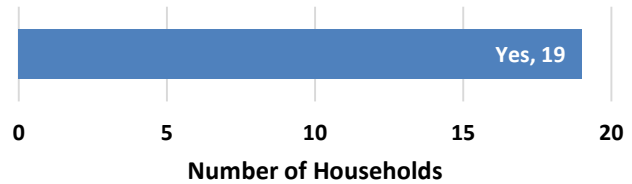
What barriers keep you from changing your residence? (check all that apply)



Homeowners considering changing their residence were asked to identify all barriers that kept them from doing so. Lack of available housing was selected by 27 as the barrier to changing. A lack of a down payment was a barrier for 15 owner households, and lack of a lot or building site was indicated by 7 as a barrier from changing residence.

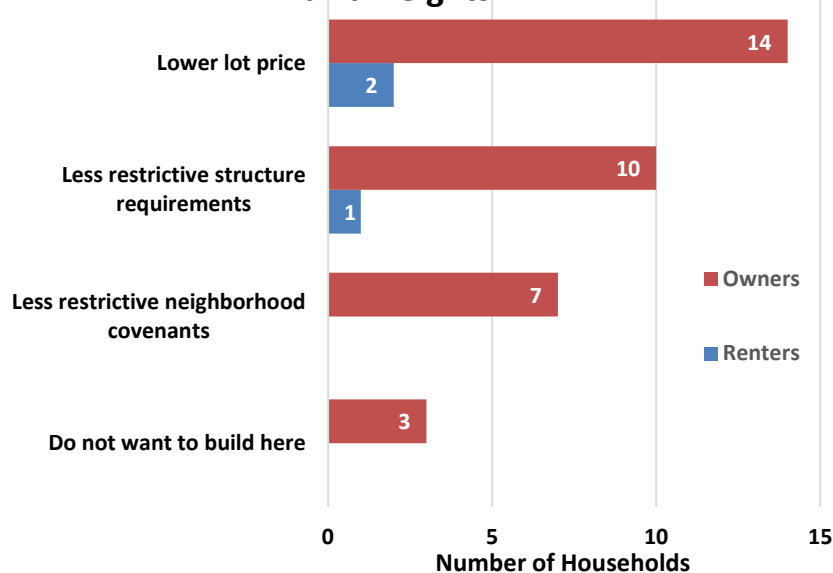
Homeowners were then asked if they were considering building a new home in Ravenna. Nineteen indicated they were considering building, 134 stating no.

Are you considering building a new home in Ravenna?



Both renter and owner household responses were combined for the next chart. Households that indicated they were interested in building a new home were asked what factors would increase their likelihood of building in Solar Subdivision or Pavia Heights Subdivision. Fourteen (14) owners and 2 renters indicated a lower lot price would increase their likelihood of building, with 10 current home owners and 1 renter indicating less restrictive structure requirements would increase the likelihood of building a new home there. Seven (7) homeowners also indicated less restrictive neighborhood covenants were a factor increasing their likelihood of building in the new subdivisions, with 3 stating they were not interested in building in Solar or Pavia Heights subdivisions. The 'other' responses submitted were by current home owners, and included, 'bad lot sizes', and 'solar subdivision lots on the east are not sized or shaped suitable to build a home on, might as well make it another campground'.

Considering building a new home: factors increasing likelihood of building in Solar or Pavia Heights



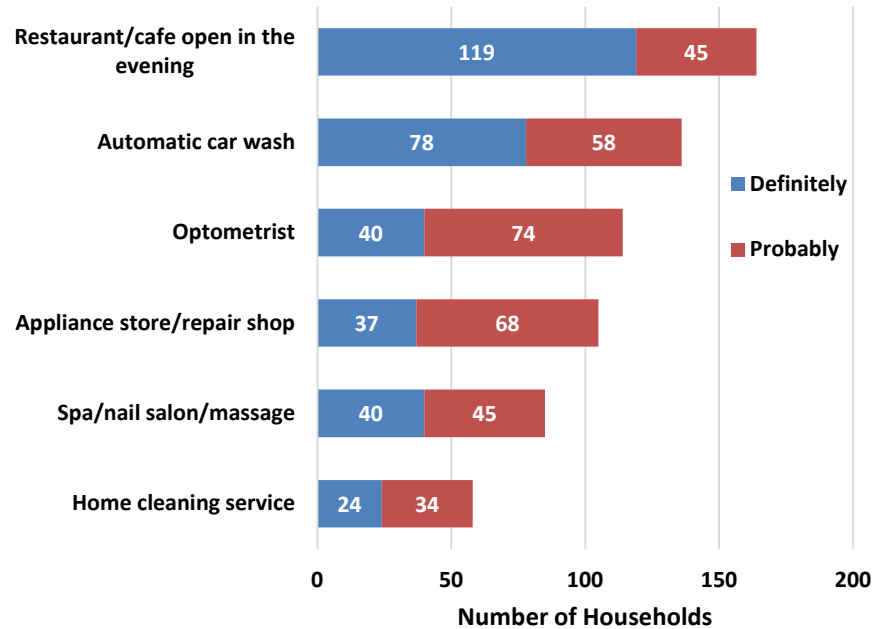
Business & Economic Development

This set of questions addressed business and economic development in Ravenna.

The first business and economic development question asked respondents if they would utilize the suggested businesses or services if they were available in Ravenna. The types of businesses provided as options were assembled with direct input from the CNAS steering committee. A total of 176 households responded to this question. Of the responses received, a strong 164 households,

representing 95%, indicated definitely or probably they would utilize a restaurant or café open in the evening. An automatic car wash received a combined 136 households indicating definitely or probably, with 114 respondents indicating they would definitely or probably utilize an optometrist, and 105 households indicated definitely or probably they would use an

Would you utilize the following businesses if they were available in our community?

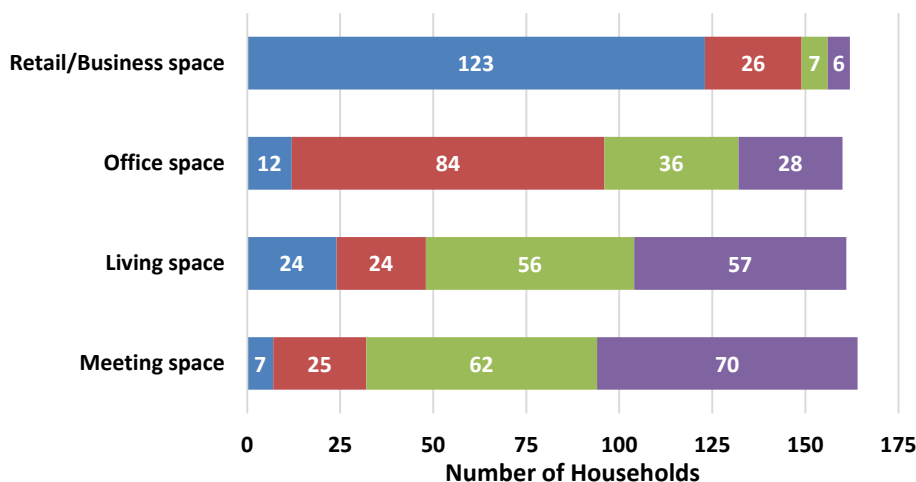


appliance store/repair shop. A spa/nail salon/massage business had 85 responding with a definitely or probably would utilize, with 68 households indicating they would definitely or probably utilize a home cleaning service.

Rank possible uses of downtown vacant buildings:

1 - most important > 4 - least important

1 2 3 4

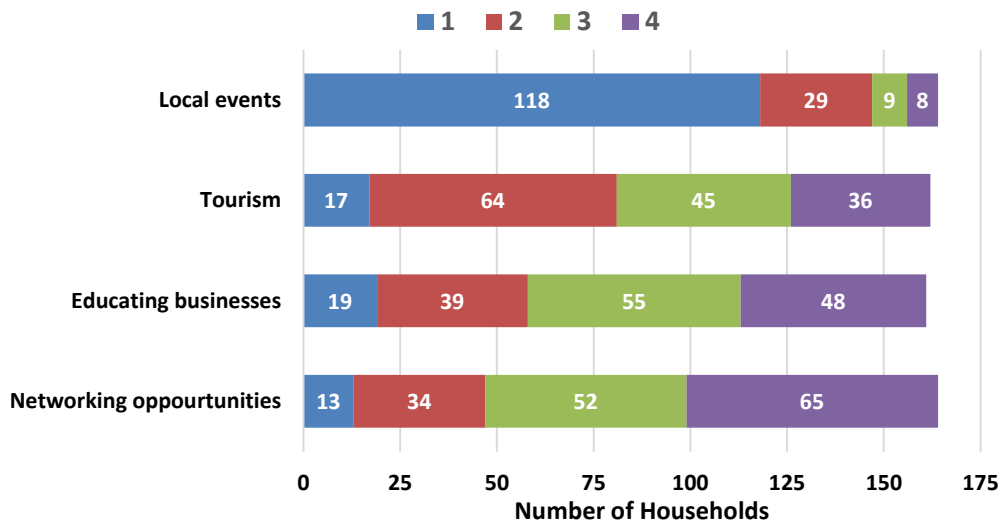


Respondents were asked how vacant buildings in the downtown should be used, given four options to rank as 1 (most important) through 4 (least important). Retail/business space received the highest overall 1st ranking with 123 of 169 responding

households indicating that was their top choice, with office space receiving 84 as the 2nd ranking. Living space and meeting space were similarly ranked as 3rd and 4th respectively.

The next two questions asked households to rank the importance of specific areas for the Chamber of Commerce to focus on, and the Economic Development focus areas. One-hundred and seventy (170) respondents ranked a focus area as 1 (most important) through 4 (least important).

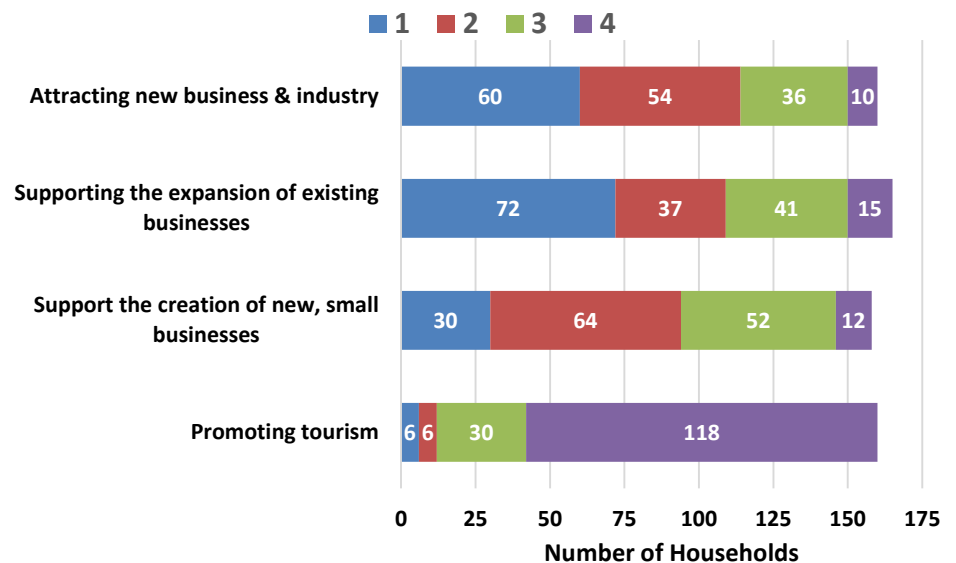
**Ranking of Chamber of Commerce focus areas:
1 -most important > 4 -least for the community**



The Chamber of Commerce top focus area showed a strong priority for focusing on local events, receiving 72% of the top ranking with 118 households indicating this as their most important focus. Tourism received 40% of the 2nd rank; educating businesses and networking opportunities received similar results as 3rd and 4th ranked, respectively.

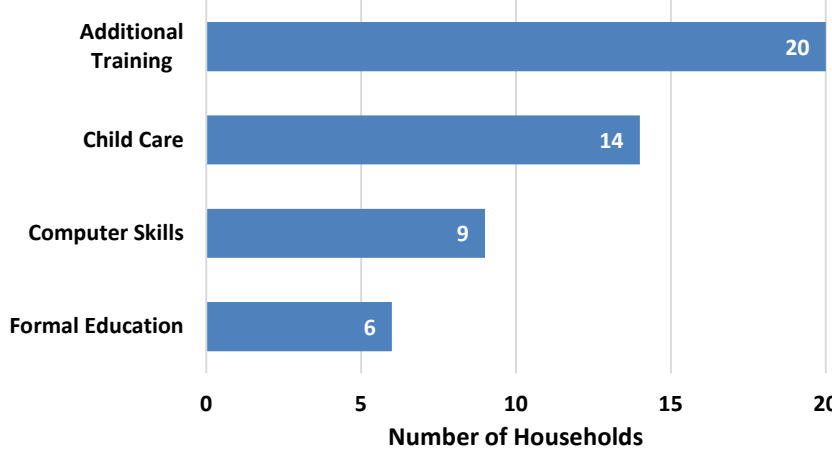
The rankings of Economic Development focus areas showed a more varied response for top rankings. Attracting new business and industry showed 60 households ranking it in first place and 54 ranked as 2nd place. Supporting the expansion of existing businesses was ranked 1st by 72 households, and 37 as 2nd place. Supporting the creation of new and small businesses received strong 2nd and 3rd place rankings. Promoting tourism was ranked 4th place out of 4 options by

**Ranking of Economic Development focus areas:
1 -most important > 4 -least for the community**



118 households indicating that as the least important focus area for Economic Development. The similar top 3 ranked responses would indicate a balance of focus areas is preferred.

What would enable you to improve your employment status?



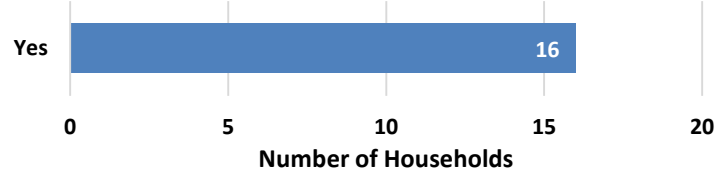
Respondents were asked what would enable them to improve their current employment status; more than one item could be selected. More training was the most common response, selected by 20 respondents. 14 chose child care, 9 computer skills, and 6 chose formal education.

Respondents were asked if they were interested in starting or purchasing a business in Ravenna. Sixteen (16) respondents said they

were interested in starting or purchasing a business in town.

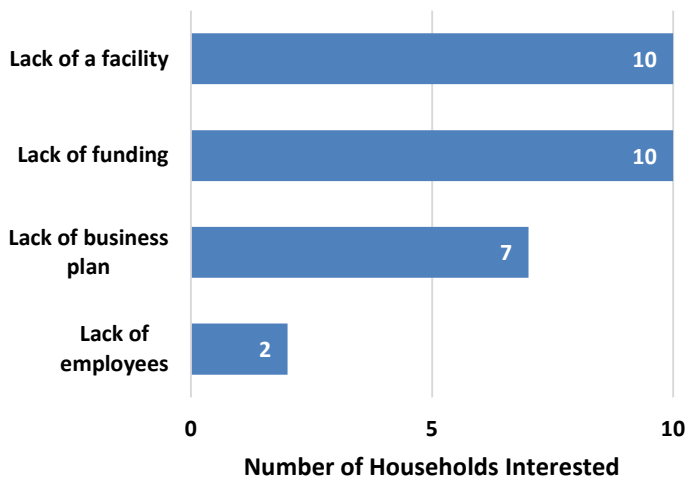
A further inquiry was made of those who expressed interest in purchasing or starting a business in Ravenna. Respondents were asked what was keeping them from starting or purchasing a business. A total of 32 households provided a response. Ten (10) respondents answered what was keeping them from starting or purchasing a business with lack of a facility, and 10 as lack of funding. Seven (7) respondents indicated the lack of a business plan kept them from starting or purchasing a business, with 2 stating a lack of employees.

Are you interested in starting or purchasing a business in town?



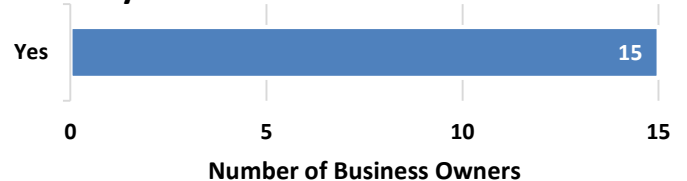
The 'other' responses included, lack of business ideas to fit my skills that aligned with Ravenna's needs, time, and not sure of interest.

If yes, what is keeping you from starting or purchasing a business?

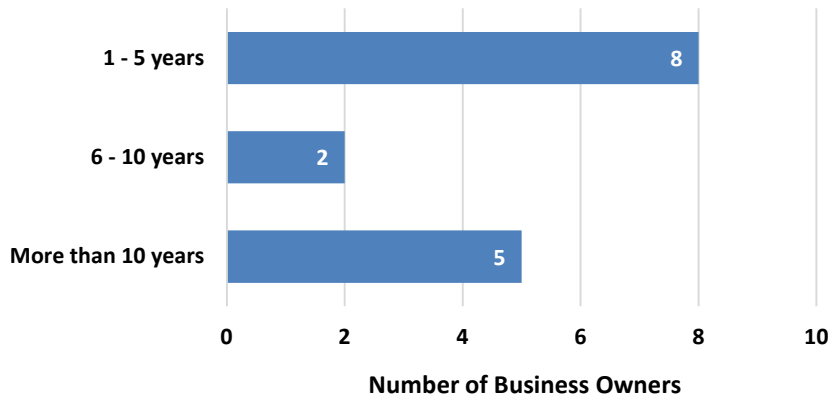


Respondents were then asked if they were a business owner that will be seeking to transition out their business in the future. Fifteen responded yes, they are planning to transition out of their business in the future.

Are you a business owner that will be seeking to transition out of your business in the future?



How soon do you want to transition?

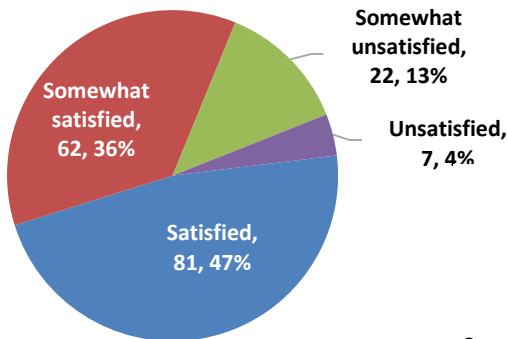


Of the 15 that answered, business owners were asked how soon they want to transition. Eight (8) business owners selected they would transition in 1-5 years, with 2 owners indicating 6-10 years. Five business owners indicated it would be more than 10 years before they would transition out of their business.

Broadband / Internet Service

With the prominence of technology in every aspect of life and following the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in more jobs transitioned to work from home, the performance, speed, and affordability of internet service has quickly become a major quality of life factor. Additionally, state and federal funds are currently available to fund broadband improvement efforts, if the need can be demonstrated.

Satisfaction with current internet service

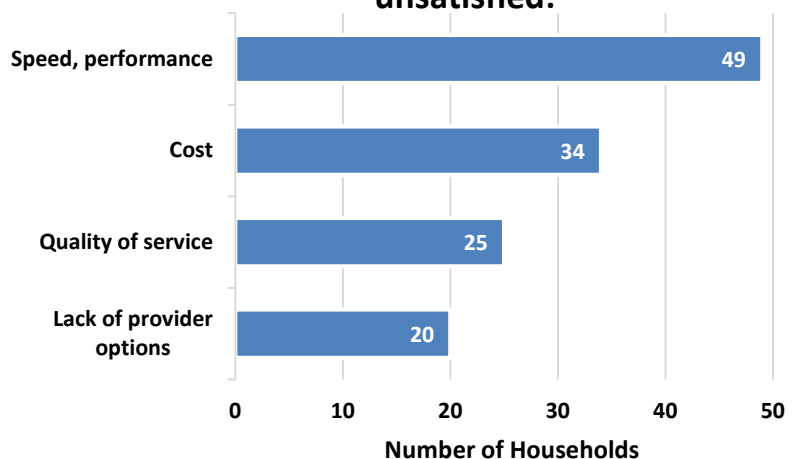


The next series of questions asked respondents to indicate their current satisfaction with their internet service. One-hundred seventy-five households responded to how satisfied they were with their current internet service. 81 indicated satisfied, 62 indicated somewhat satisfied, 22 as somewhat

unsatisfied, and 7 households indicated they were unsatisfied with current internet service.

All respondents were then asked the main reason for internet service dissatisfaction, if somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied, and were able to

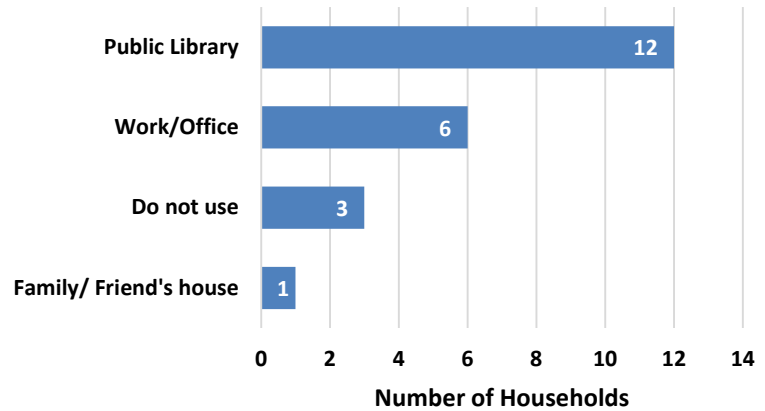
Main reasons for internet service dissatisfaction - if somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied:



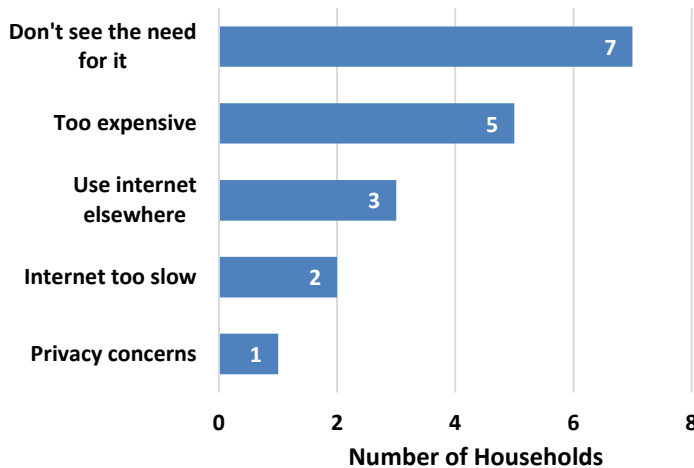
check all reasons that apply. 134 total answers were received with speed and performance receiving the most selections with 49, followed by cost selected by 34, quality of service selected by 25, and lack of provider options selected by 20 households. The 'other' responses included, goes out all the time, and don't have home internet – too expensive.

For those households that do not have an internet connected device in the home, they were asked where they most often access the internet. Twelve (12) households indicated they access the internet at the public library, 6 at work/office, with 1 indicating at a family or friend's house. Three households stated they do not use the internet, and the other response listed cell phone as where they most often access the internet.

If you do not have an internet connected device in the home, where do you most often access the internet?



What is the main reason you do not currently have internet access in your home?

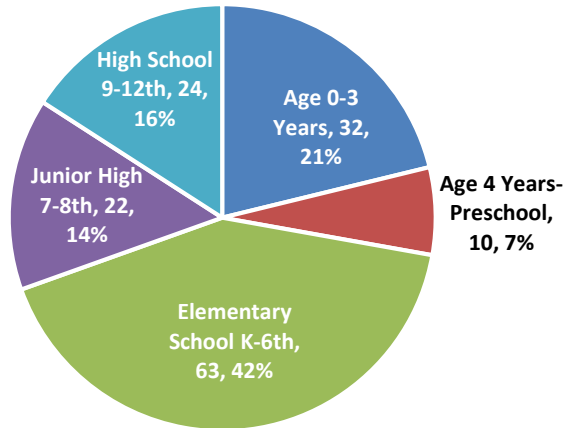


Respondents were asked the main reason they do not currently have internet access in their home. Seven (7) responded they did not see the need for it, 5 selected it was too expensive, 3 use internet elsewhere, 2 said the internet was too slow, and 1 stated privacy concerns as the reason. One household indicated other as the reason they did not currently have internet access, stating no computer as the reason.

Child Care

This next set of questions addressed child care in Ravenna. Responses reflect those who utilize child care services.

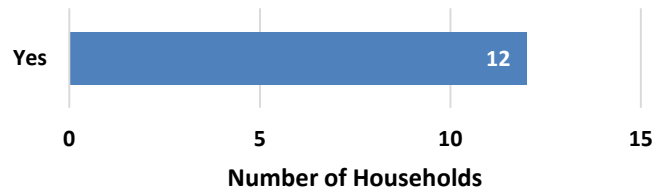
Number of Children by Age Category



Respondents were asked how many children in their household are in the following age categories. Of the 142 households responding, the largest demographic of children represented by households was the elementary school age, grades K-6th with 63 or 42%. Junior high represented 22 and 14%, high school 24 and 16%, age 0-3 years had 32 and 21% representation, and age 4-preschool had 10 households and 7% represented.

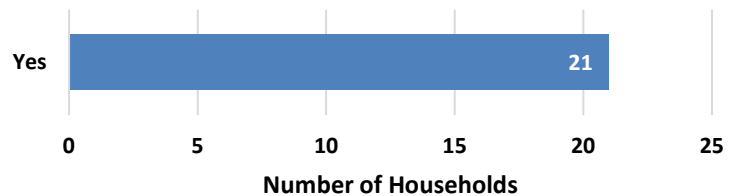
Households were then asked if they do not currently have children, are you anticipating needing child care within the next 5 years. Twelve (12) indicated they anticipated needing child care within the next 5 years.

Households anticipating needing child care within 5 years

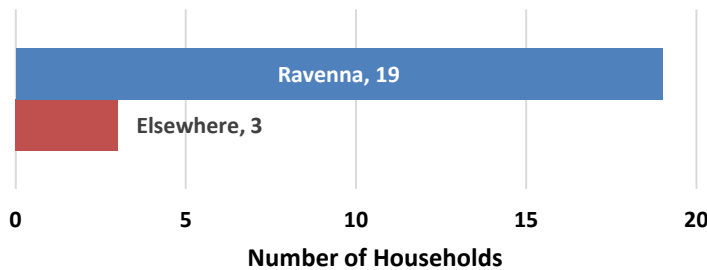


Respondents were asked if they used child care services on a regular basis. Of the 179 responses received, 21 households stated that they use child care on a regular basis.

Households utilizing child care on a regular basis

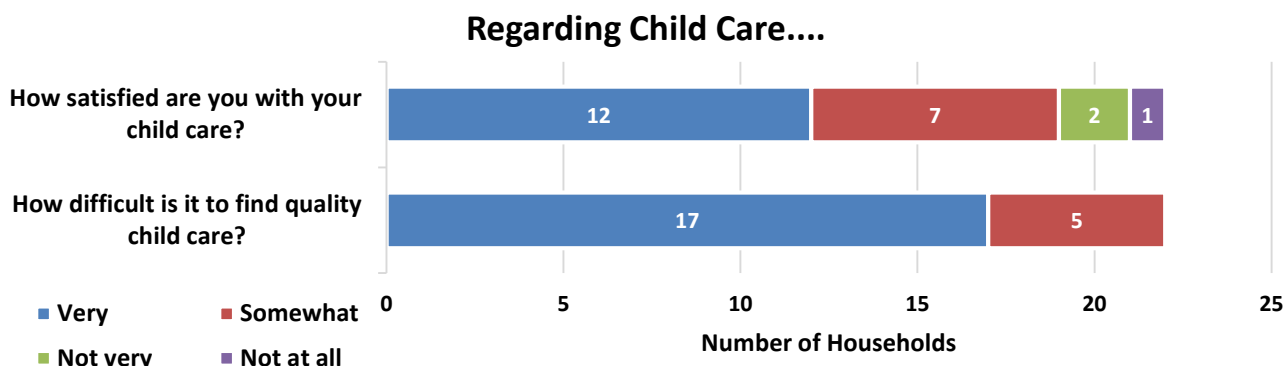


Location of Child Care



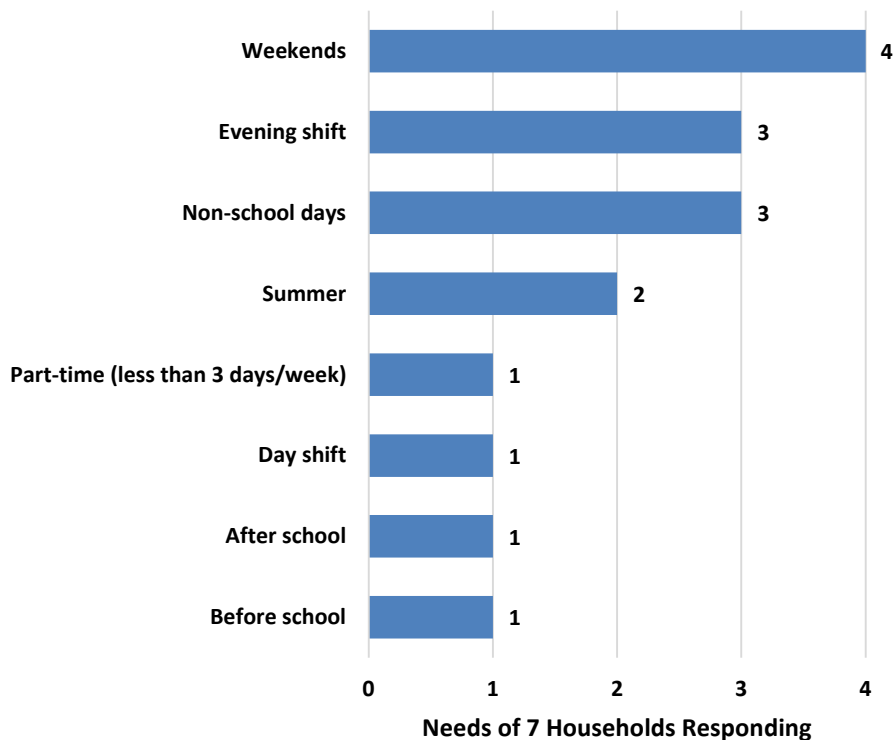
Residents were also asked about the location of their current child care. Twenty-two (22) responded, with 19 indicating child care was in Ravenna, and 3 selected elsewhere.

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with their child care. Twenty-two (22) households responded with 12 stating very satisfied, 7 somewhat satisfied, 2 not very satisfied, and 1 was not at all satisfied.



Then respondents were asked about the difficulty of finding quality child care. Of the 22 households that responded, a large majority (17 of 22) stated it was very difficult, with 5 stating it was somewhat difficult. No respondents (0) stated that it was not very difficult or not at all difficult to find quality child care.

What child care needs do you have that are not currently being met? (Check all that apply)



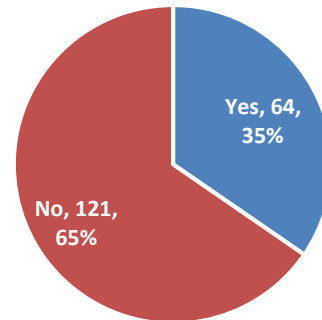
Ravenna residents were asked what child care needs they had that were not currently being met, provided a list of options and could select all that apply to their household. Only 7 households provided responses to this question. Weekends was selected 4 times as the child care need not being met, with evening shifts and non-school days each selected by 3 households. Summer child care received 2, with part-time, day shift, after school and before school each selected by 1 household as the child care need not currently being met.

Education

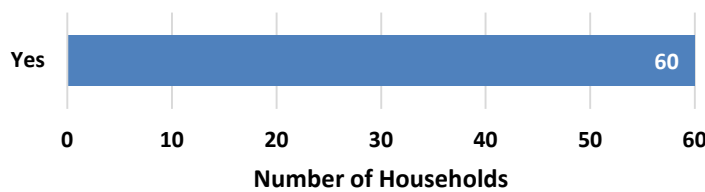
The next set of questions asked households about the Ravenna Public Schools system.

Households were asked first if they have children in the Ravenna Public Schools, PreK-12th grade. Of the 185 respondents, 35% did have children in the school system (64), while 65% (121) did not.

Do you have children in the Ravenna Public Schools?



Do you expect to have children in school in the next 5 years?



Next, respondents were asked if the household expected to have children in the school in the next 5 years. Sixty (60) households indicated they would have

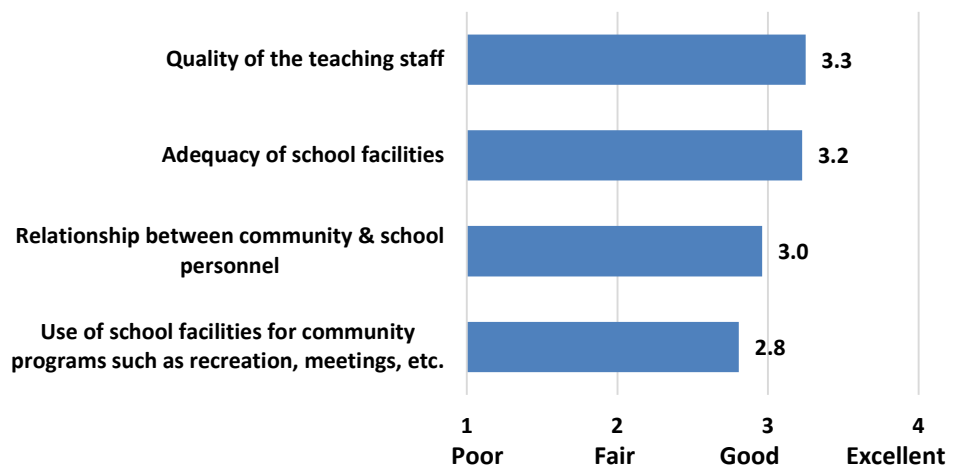
children in the school system in 5 years, representing 33%, with 124 households indicating they would not.

The last question in education, asked households to rate the following areas regarding their opinion of the Ravenna Public Schools, with Excellent through Poor provided as options as well as a 'don't know or no opinion' option. Of those 159 households with an opinion, each area received an overall good rating. The quality of the teaching staff received the highest score with 57 recognizing as excellent, 79 good, 13 fair, and 3 poor. Similarly, adequacy of school facilities

received 59 excellent, 80 good, 17 fair, and 3 poor ratings.

Relationship between community and school personnel was rated by 152 households with 38 rating as excellent, 71 good, 42 fair, and 1 as a poor rating. Use of school facilities for community programs was rated slightly lower overall, with 34 excellent, 63 good, 43 fair, and 10 poor ratings.

Please rate the following regarding your opinion of the Ravenna Public Schools:



CNAS Conclusions – based on 28% of Ravenna households in the city limits reporting

Demographics Strengths

- * Age of population taking the survey was evenly spread: 46% of respondents were between 19 and 44 years of age and 54% were 45 or older
- * Eighty-five (85) respondents representing 47% had lived in the Ravenna area for over 20 years.
- * Balanced responses received based on household income with 43 households' combined income under \$49,999, 66 households between \$50,000 and \$99,999, and 42 households' combined income \$100,000 or over

City/Community Strengths

- * **Strong favorable opinion as to the adequacy or condition of:**
 - Library Services, Rescue squad, Fire protection, Splash Pad
- * **Good Support:**
 - Should the City enforce nuisance regulations (92% - definitely or probably).
 - Should the City enforce zoning ordinances (86% - definitely or probably)
 - Should the City provide funding for Economic Development efforts (93% - definitely or probably)
- * Overall community feeling in Ravenna is between very positive and somewhat positive, with 73% of responding households indicating that rating.

City Challenges

- * **General Appearance of:**
 - Vacant Lots, Vacant Houses, Nuisance code enforcement
 - Adequacy of the four parks received overall good to fair ratings.

Local Issues and Questions

- * **Lack of Awareness of:**
 - Food pantry location (27% did not know)
 - Senior Center newsletter access (47% did not know)
 - More awareness of volunteer community opportunities indicated by 122 households (80%)
- * More information and investigation of a new community facility and options for a facility are likely needed to generate support for a facility initiative.

Housing Strengths

- * 95% of households rated the condition of their home as excellent or structurally sound
- * 73% of households that rent stated their rental met their needs

Housing Opportunities

- * 14 owner and 2 renter households would consider building in Solar or Pavia Heights subdivisions if lower lot prices were available

Housing Challenges

- * 42% of responding households are paying more than 30% of income towards housing each month.
- * Strong support for residential sidewalk construction (scored 3.3 out of 4) and residential street maintenance projects (3.2 out of 4)
- * Sidewalks in residential areas rated fair to poor by 78% (142 households responding)
- * Vacant homes and vacant lots received an overall fair to poor rating, 85% and 83% respectively
- * 19 renters indicated they preferred to live in a single family home with 11 of those respondents indicating a price range for purchasing a home as \$150,000 or under
- * 63% of renters (17) indicated it was very difficult or somewhat difficult to find a rental

Business & Economic Development Strengths

- * Strong Support for: Restaurant/café open in the evening with 95% stating definitely or probably would support, and Automatic car wash received 65% definitely or probably would support
- * 16 respondents stated interest in starting or purchasing a business.

Business & Economic Development Opportunities

- * Chamber of Commerce focus area ranked local event support in strong favor (118 households ranked 1st)
- * Economic Development focus areas in strong support for attracting new business and industry and supporting the expansion of existing businesses

Business & Economic Development Challenges

- * Potential business owners indicate lack of funding and lack of a facility (10 each response) is keeping them from starting or purchasing a business.
- * 49 of 134 responding households indicated dissatisfaction of internet service provider's speed or performance

Education & Child Care Strengths

- * Overall, 4 School areas rated as good with quality of school teaching staff and adequacy of school facilities receiving the highest ratings
- * 19 of 22 responded child care location was within Ravenna
- * 86% (19) of respondents rated their child care as very satisfied to somewhat satisfied

Child Care Challenges

- * 19 of those responding (100%) said it was very difficult or somewhat difficult to find quality child care.
- * Low number of households represented in child care section and additional inquiries likely needed to make future decisions

Comments: Community

Respondents were provided a list of programs, if offered in the community, and to indicate which ones their household would utilize – Youth or Adult programs. Other responses:

- INDOOR SWIMMING
- Indoor pool rec center
- Gun range
- YMCA
- IT
- Work out gym
- Adult horticulture
- parenting classes/gymnastics for kids and other kid activities
- Adult cellphone/social media skills
- Gardening / Horticulture

Respondents were asked, 'What would encourage you to volunteer at community events?'

- Already volunteer (6 times)
- Having less on personal schedule / more time (2 times)
- No desire / don't care / not interested (3 times)
- Friendly groups
- I'm burned out on volunteering
- More involvement from others in the community – the same people always volunteer to help and get burnt out.
- Half the time it seems there is no notice of these events until the week of. Only certain individuals seem to ask for help/donations/time and it's the same individuals for the same events every year.
- Ravenna needs an active Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber needs a director and regular meetings so businesses are aware of what is going on in the community.
- Social Media sign-up
- Our side streets and alleys are not big enough for this event

Comments: Housing

Respondents who indicated they were owners were asked, 'What barriers keep you from changing your residence?' Other responses:

- Acreage
- I like my house and haven't found one better
- would upgrade current house
- Cost/Too expensive right now (3 times)
- Interest Rates
- Lack of credit
- Not ready to move , like where were at
- Money
- Unsure if we want to stay in the community.
- no need
- Taxes in Ravenna.
- The few houses available are in horrible condition and cost an outrageous amount considering the repairs needed to be livable.



**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

*Allow approximately 15
minutes to complete!*

City of Ravenna's *Community Needs Assessment Survey*

Your opinion matters

as we take the next step to planning
great things for our community.

Survey open from:

**October 25-
November 10**

Questions: Contact **City of Ravenna**
308-452-3273

Online Survey:

<https://myravenna.com/>



Paper surveys available at the
City Office, Library & Senior Center
*Completed paper forms to be turned in to
City Offices only, 416 Grand Avenue.*

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Community Needs Assessment Survey

**Your opinion
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as we take the next step
to planning ***great things***
for our community.



Join us

Light Dinner provided!

Meal provided by City of Ravenna, Ravenna Chamber of Commerce & Ravenna Economic Development Corporation.



Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

5:30pm | City Auditorium

Results from our Community Needs Assessment Survey shared.

Then join in community conversations about the future of Ravenna!

Please plan for approximately 2 hours for information sharing & conversation.

Further information: kcrowell@ravennanebraska.net



South Central Economic Development District, Inc. facilitating.

Ravenna Town Hall Meeting Setting Priorities for Community Improvement February 1, 2023

Sharon Hueftle, LeAnn Jochum, and Lori Ferguson of the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) facilitated a Town Hall meeting in Ravenna, Nebraska on February 1, 2023. This meeting was sponsored by the City of Ravenna. The meal was sponsored by the City of Ravenna, Ravenna Economic Development, and Ravenna Chamber of Commerce. Forty-four community members participated in the meeting.

The Town Hall meeting opened with the Mayor Fred Matejka welcoming the community members and explained the importance of listening to the community for their needs and why the survey was done. SCEDD proceeded with introductions and a review of the agenda for the evening. Results of the Ravenna Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS) were reviewed as well as an overview of strengths, challenges and opportunities gleaned from the results for the six survey topic areas. Community participants were then asked to brainstorm community priorities.

Participants identified five priority areas for community improvement:

- Parks and Recreation
- Child Care
- Nuisance Codes/Vacant Properties
- Business Retention & Recruitment
- Housing/Investment Club

Each priority was assigned to a table and participants were asked to congregate at the table with the topic of choice. Following are the plans, discussion highlights, and goals, if discussed, developed for each priority.

Task Force #1: Parks and Recreation

Members: Joy Kyhn, Cassandra Duncan, Shelbi Zinnell, Luke Zinnell, Barbara Ells, Brandy Fuller, Jolene Jones, Gary Jones and Kellie Crowell

Who else should be involved: Park Board of Ravenna

Focus:

Goal Statement:

Goal #1: Fix and update restrooms **Goal #2:** Swimming Pool Committee **Goal #3:** Ball park updates

Next Meeting:

Strategies:

1-3 Years:

1. Form a Swimming Pool survey
2. Updating Ball Parks – need more storage, bull pens, dugouts updated, more parking at small fields, bathrooms – first focus of bathroom facilities based on most support in survey results
3. Swimming Pool – more parking needed, funding for new pool/site, survey of adults and children specific to pool needs. Lots of discussion on how the transition from the old library to the new went well and how the pool project could be done the same.
4. After School Youth Program – skating, bowling

3-5 Years:

1. Swimming Pool fundraising – make a plan and promote

Task Force #2: Child Care

Members: Tena Ackley, Sarah Birkley and Jamie Basnett

Who else should be involved: leadership

Focus: *Now!*

Goal Statement: There is not enough importance being placed on the need to expand child care in our community.

Goal #1: City Awareness of the need

Goal #2: More quality (licensed) child care providers

Next Meeting:

Strategies:

Immediate Need:

1. Newspaper article showing the need, need City support for expanding
2. Current providers coach or mentor prospective and current providers
3. Create the importance of being licensed – 3 to 4 are unlicensed, would encourage more families to consider those as options
4. Need more space to expand and serve more children – Tena has a waitlist through August 2023, Sarah’s waitlist is through August 2024. Notations on their goal sheet indicated a total of 14 active on their waitlist, needs confirmed with providers.

1-3 Years:

1. Willingness of current providers to mentor new and/or unlicensed providers ongoing

3-5 Years:

Task Force #3: Nuisance Codes/Vacant Properties

Members: Fred Matejka, Ritch Havranek, Tonya Dale, Sue Zeller, Kent Zeller, Brandy Fuller, Denise Mingus, Larry Wilke, Dale Johnson, Tanner Ellis

Who else should be involved:

Goal Statement: **Goal #1:** Need to address Vacant Lots & Vacant Houses
Goal #2: Nuisance enforcement

Next Meeting:

Strategies:

1-3 Years:

1. Education out to the public (social media, newspaper, etc.) to increase understanding and awareness of nuisance codes
2. Bring back the community clean-up days/weekends to encourage removal of junk; then on those days accept white goods (appliances), tires, etc.
3. Need improvements all over (residential sidewalks, dilapidated houses, unlicensed vehicles, junk and vacant lots)
4. City investigate LB256 Nebraska Vacant Property Registration Act:
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/105/PDF/Slip/LB256.pdf>
5. Look at Nuisance enforcement options, how to do all of town so no perception of picking select few versus picking worst violations of code
6. Consider infill lot options – offer for sale to adjoining property owners, or consider small home footprint to increase affordable home inventory

3-5 Years:

1. Owner occupied rehabilitation options, revolving loan

2. Consider recruiting contractors to build by preparing lots for development, consideration if City should initially try to purchase
3. Consider Contractor incentives to encourage building, group lots together especially smaller lots and to try to get multi-family units built

Task Force #4: Business Retention & Recruitment

Members: Zach West, Lonny Palser, Linda Palser, Linda Zinnell, Ron Zinnell

Who else should be involved:

Focus:

Goal Statement: Goal #1: Advertise learning opportunities **Goal #2:** Work with the School

Goal #3: Transitioning Businesses

Next Meeting:

Strategies:

1-3 Years:

1. Advertise (locations available with a map, funding, business plan and learning luncheons) – bring speakers to town
2. Teach students to be entrepreneurs (work with public schools)
3. Overcome businesses leaving in one to five years (ethanol plant); offer resources to business owners and possible recruitment for transition owners to gauge interest
4. Consider ‘additional training’ opportunities – Lunch N’ Learn events, expressed in survey as top selection for ‘what would enable you to improve your employment status’

3-5 Years:

Task Force #5: Housing/Investment Club

Members: Rodney Pollorsk, Larry Behrendt, John Chramosta, Julie Chramosta,

Who else should be involved:

Focus:

Goal Statement: Goal #1: Rural Housing **Goal #2:** Townhomes and apartment for older people

Next Meeting:

Strategies:

1-3 Years:

1. Communication to get everyone on the same page
2. Investment club to create \$75,000 contributing \$1,000 per year
3. Consider small homes or grouping projects together to encourage contractors
4. Consider collaborating with Economic Development Office to identify business owners looking to start, support those initiatives with loans and support

3-5 Years: