

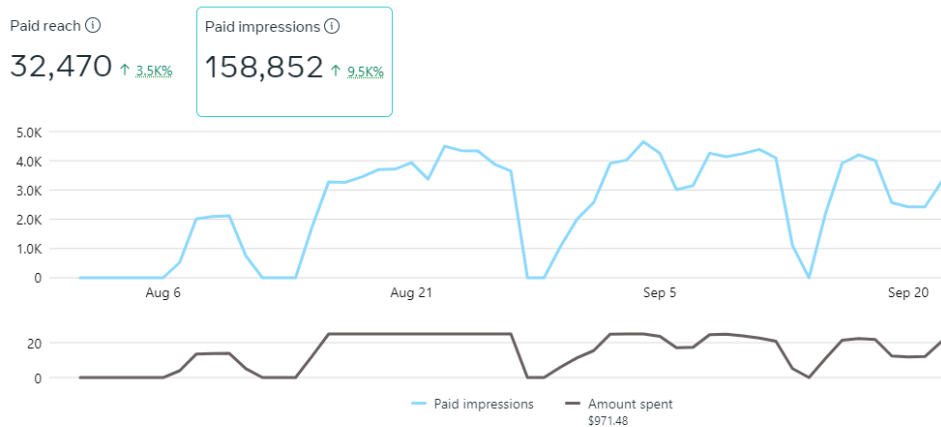
Community Engagement: Countywide Survey

A countywide survey took place from early August through the end of September 2023. The survey was primarily online, but to ensure geographic distribution, 2,100 paper surveys were mailed to random households, specifically targeting unincorporated areas of the county. Almost 2,000 survey responses were received (1,985 responses), which includes all paper and online responses.

Marketing and awareness of the survey was particularly extensive. Highlights include:

OVER 32,000 REACH ON FACEBOOK

Utilizing Facebook as a primary tool for marketing and raising awareness, a series of boosted Facebook (and Instagram) posts promoting the survey commenced in early August. The focus was on areas outside of Columbia, particularly unincorporated areas and small towns. The effort resulted in an impressive reach of over 32,000 individuals (number of people who saw the content) and over 158,000 impressions (number of times the content appeared on a person's screen).



2,100 MAILED PAPER SURVEYS

In late August, a total of 2,100 paper surveys were mailed to random households, specifically targeting unincorporated areas of the county. The mailed surveys included a self-addressed, stamped return envelope, facilitating the ease of survey return. In total, 261 paper surveys were returned, indicating a return rate of approximately 12.5%. Although slightly below the expected return rate of 15-25% for mailed paper surveys, the paper surveys included instructions on accessing the survey online. Therefore, individuals who received a paper survey may have opted to complete the survey online, potentially boosting the overall response rate.

OVER 3,400 WEBSITE VISITORS

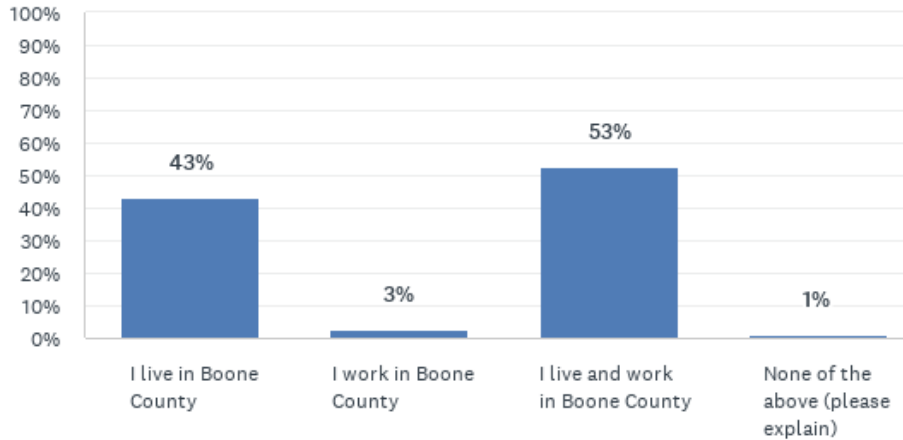
A dedicated website (www.OurBoone.com) was launched in May 2023, serving as a hub for the planning process. The website recorded over 3,400 unique visitors by October 2023, indicating substantial engagement and interest.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

The open houses and survey garnered significant media coverage, amplifying public awareness. Additionally, members of the Advisory Committee, Technical Committee, and stakeholder groups actively shared the survey within their organizations, networks, and contacts, further broadening the survey's reach and impact.

In-Progress

Q2. What best describes you? [choose one]



All Respondents

Over 96% of respondents lived in Boone County, with 3% who worked in Boone County and 1% "Other". The subsequent **survey results encompass only those respondents residing in Boone County**, specifically those who selected "I live in Boone County" or "I live and work in Boone County."

The survey results start with question two. The first survey question asked, "What is your street address?" Addresses were only used internally by the planning team to track response distribution.

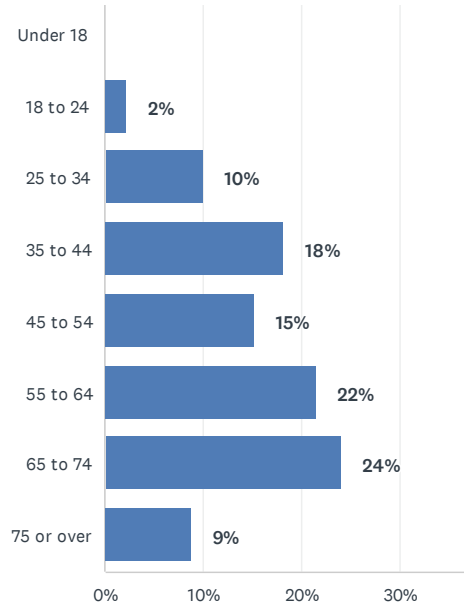
The survey data is further analyzed based on the following categories:

- All Residents
- Unincorporated Residents
- Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)
- Columbia Residents

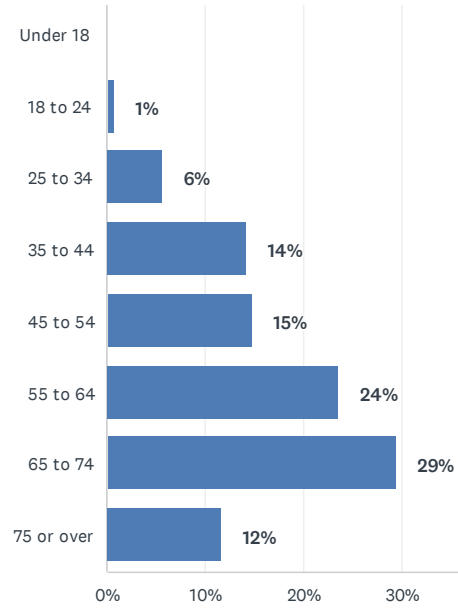
Survey results are as of October 6, 2023.

The following pages present the survey results, featuring representative comments for various questions. **In total, over 6,000 individual comments were submitted as part of the survey.** All comments are included in the appendix.

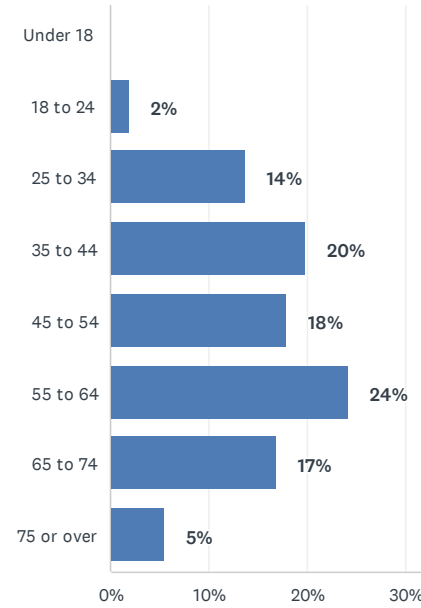
In-Progress
Q3. What is your age?



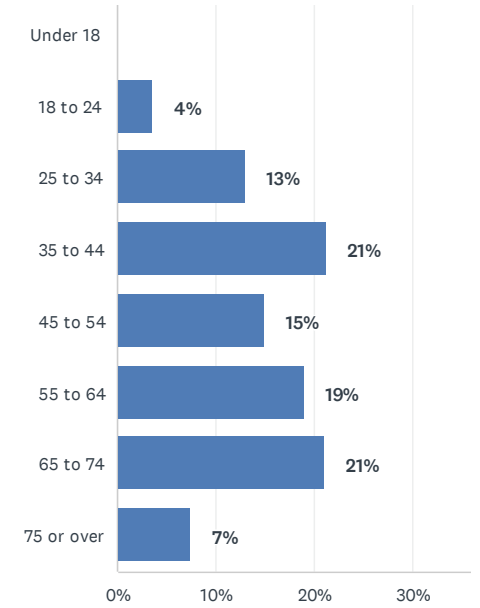
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

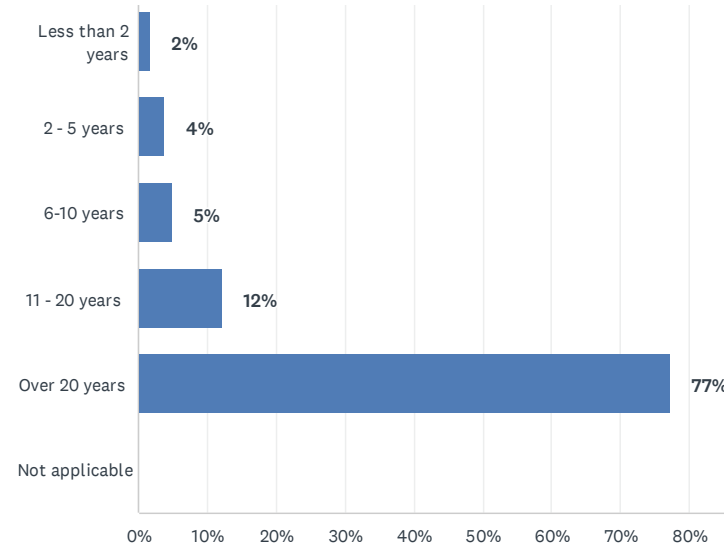
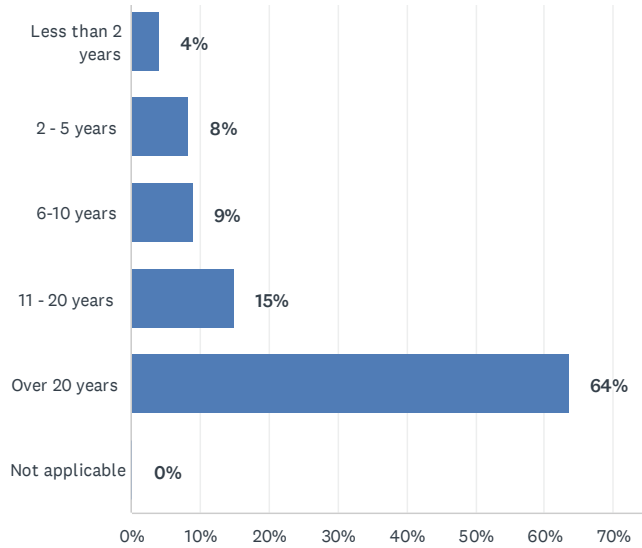


**Small Town Residents
 (All cities except for Columbia)**

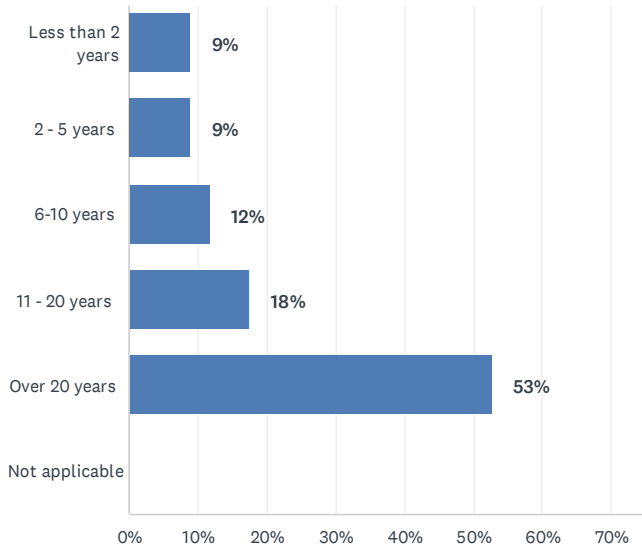


Columbia Residents

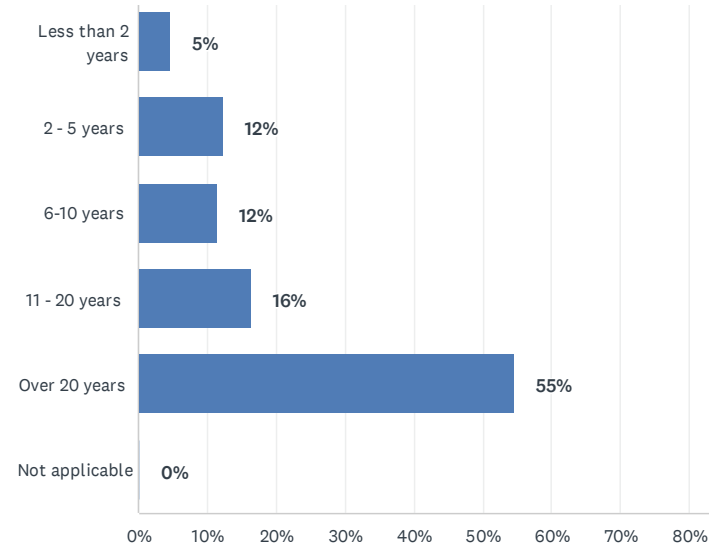
Q4. How long have you lived in Boone County?



All Residents



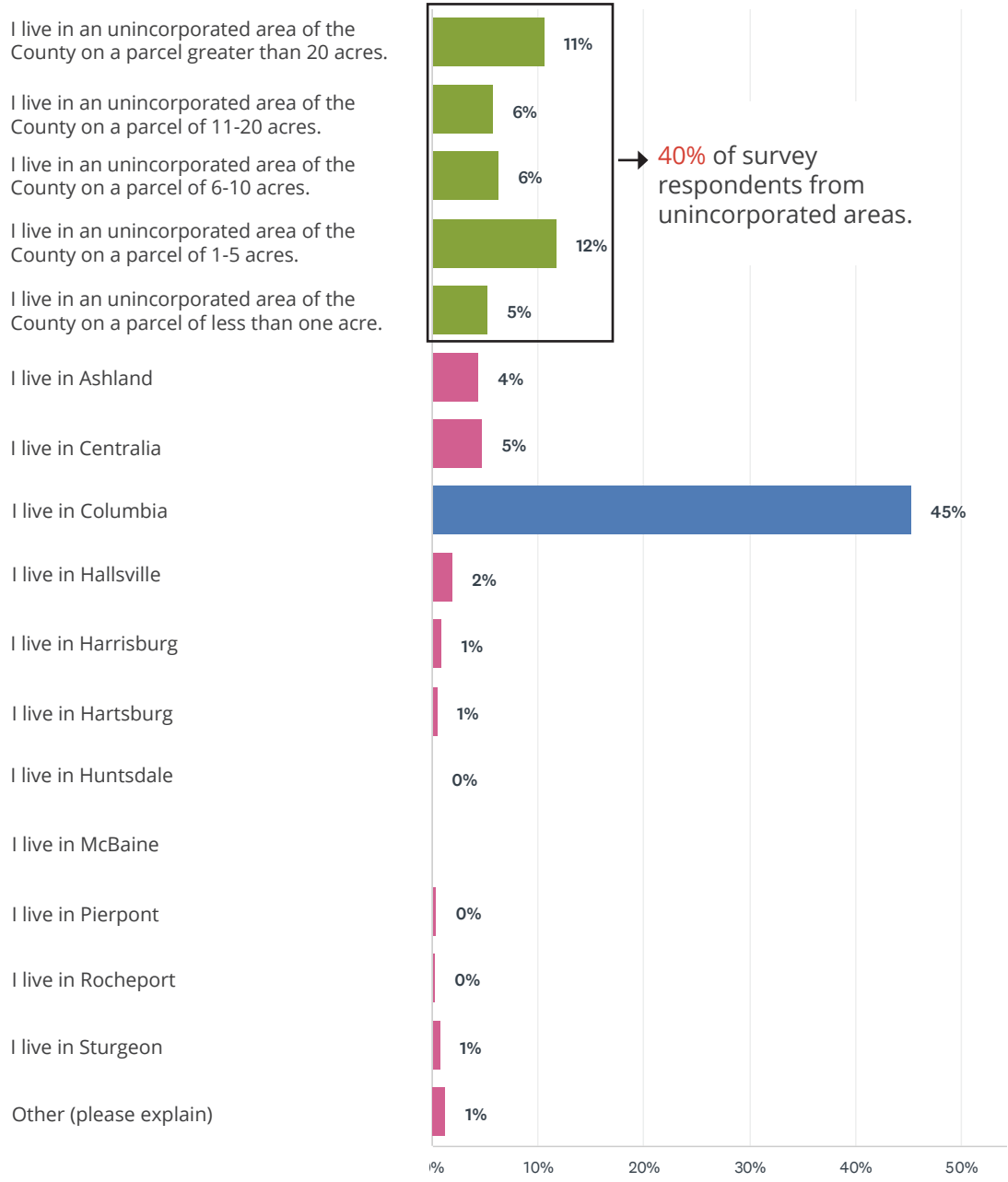
Unincorporated Residents



Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

Columbia Residents

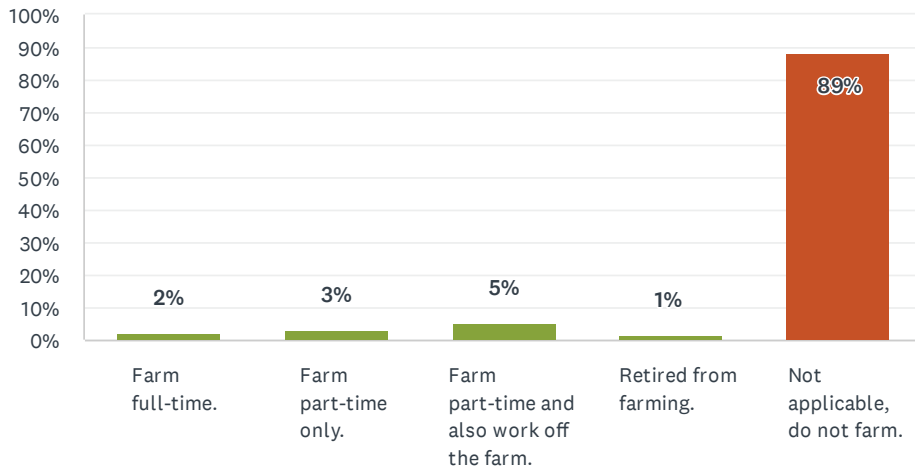
Q5. If you live in Boone County, what best describes you? [choose one]



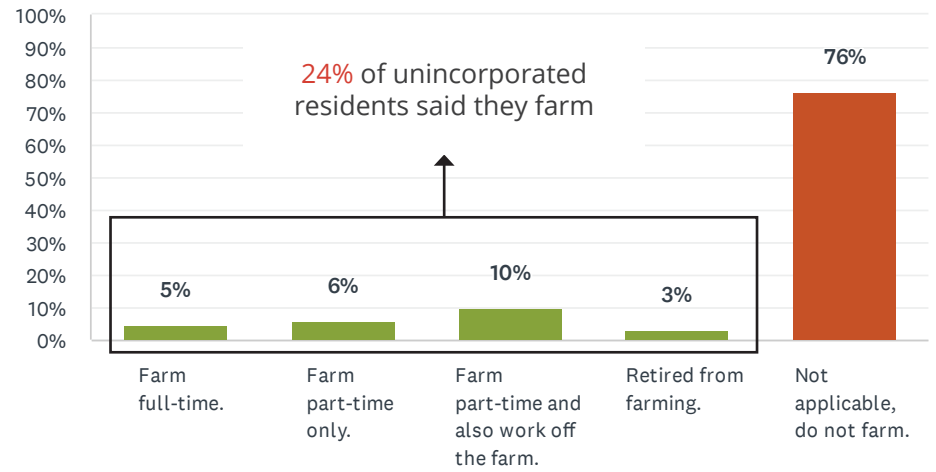
Area	% of Survey	% of Boone Population
Unincorporated Areas	40%	25%
Ashland	4%	2.7%
Centralia	5%	2.6%
Columbia	45%	68%
Hallsville	2%	0.9%
Sturgeon	1%	0.5%

All Residents

Q6. If you farm, what best describes you? [choose one]



All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

In addition to asking survey respondents where they lived and how long they lived in Boone County, the survey asked respondents if they farmed. The majority of survey respondents did not farm. Of unincorporated residents, 24% of respondents said they farm (full-time, part-time, or retired), with 76% saying they do not farm.

In-Progress

Q7. In five words or less, explain why you love living in Boone County.

Sample of Comments from Unincorporated Residents

"Rural living close to town amenities."

"Community, rural feel with city amenities."

"Diverse, safe communities. Economic opportunities."

"Rural, but close access to urban Columbia."

"Rural living, no close neighbors."

"People, natural beauty, cultural opportunities."

"I love living in the country and still having access to libraries, movies, plays, shopping, good restaurants, good medical facilities, and other cultural and social activities in Columbia and surrounding areas."

"Born here, family here."

Sample of Comments from Small Town Residents

"The sense of community."

"Small, safe, good community."

"I like living outside Columbia but still close to it. Our area is beautiful, peaceful and has a great sense of community."

"Small town and easy access to nature areas and bigger cities."

"We are near our family."

"Small town, educational opportunities, health care access."

"Rural small town values."

"Small town, quietness, friendliness of others."



Sample of Comments from Columbia Residents

"Community, nature, trails, markets, Mizzou."

"Diversity, progressive, community-focused, culture, nature-focused."

"I love the open mind that the community has."

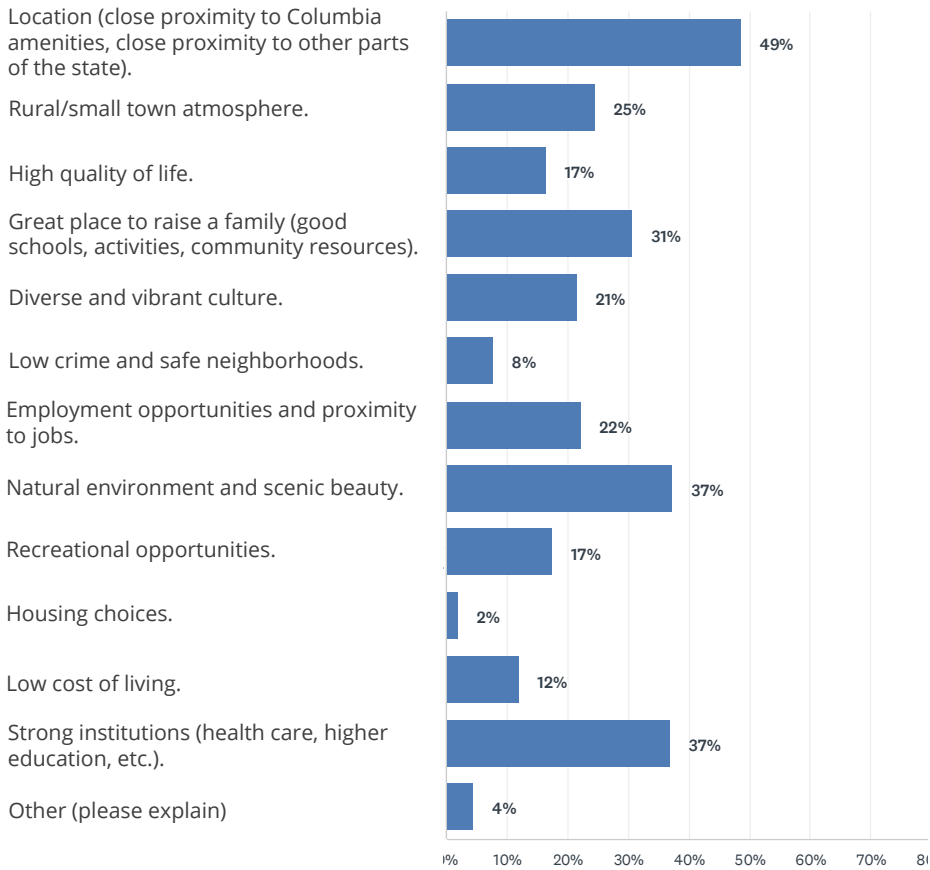
"Diverse activities and people in Columbia."

"University, opportunity, diversity."

"Scenery, green space, trails, culture."

"I love the people, the access to trails and our park system, our library system, the lack of traffic and the location between KC and StL."

Q8. What are the top three strengths of living in Boone County? [choose up to three]



All Residents

Top 5 Responses

1. Location
2. Strong institutions
2. Natural environment and scenic beauty
4. Great place to raise a family
5. Rural/Small town atmosphere

Similarities

Among Unincorporated, Small Town, and Columbia residents, the top five responses were similar and included:

- Location
- Natural environment and scenic beauty
- Great place to raise a family

For each of the three groups, 'Location' ranked either first or second, representing a range from 59% of Unincorporated responses to 38% of Columbia responses.

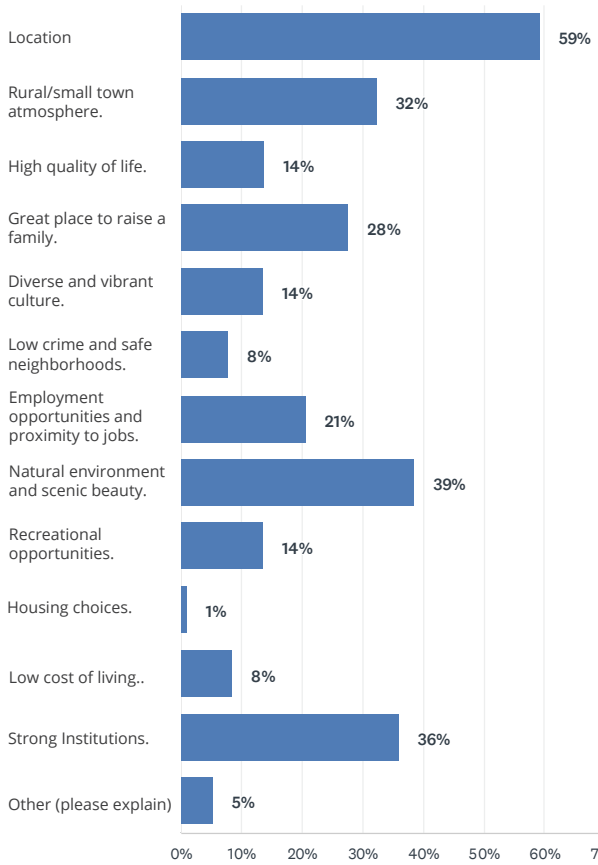
Differences

- Strong Institutions
'Strong Institutions' was ranked in the top three for both Unincorporated and Columbia residents, but it did not make it into the top five for Small Town residents. This difference in ranking might be attributed to concerns about access to healthcare within the small towns.
- Rural/Small Town Atmosphere
Not surprisingly, 'Rural/Small Town Atmosphere' claimed the top spot for Small Town residents and secured the fourth position for Unincorporated residents. Only 9% of Columbia respondents selected 'Rural/Small Town Atmosphere' as a strength.

Other Notes

- More consensus of Small Town rankings
Small Town residents exhibited more consensus in their top rankings, with two choices garnering over 50% and a third with over 40% support. Conversely, Columbia residents displayed a more diverse range of responses, with only one choice surpassing the 40% mark.

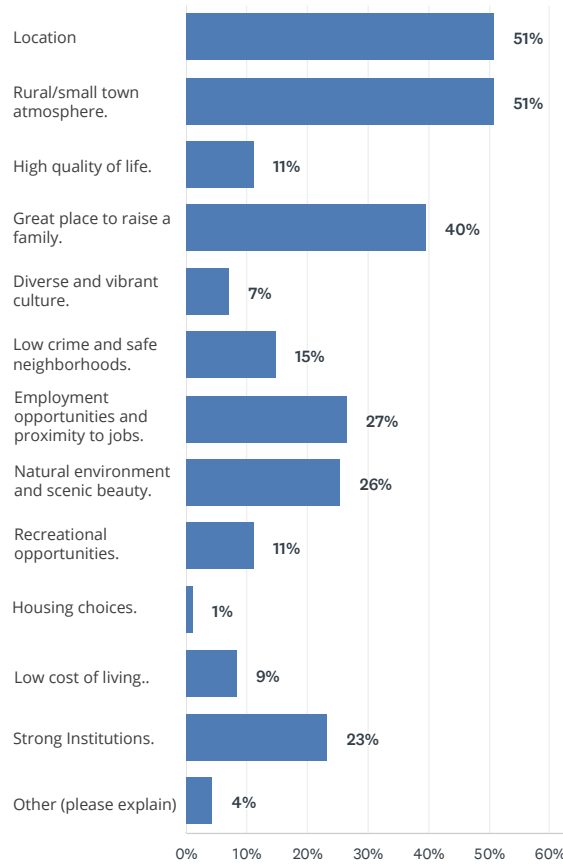
Q8. What are the top three strengths of living in Boone County? [choose up to three]



Unincorporated Residents

Top 5 Responses

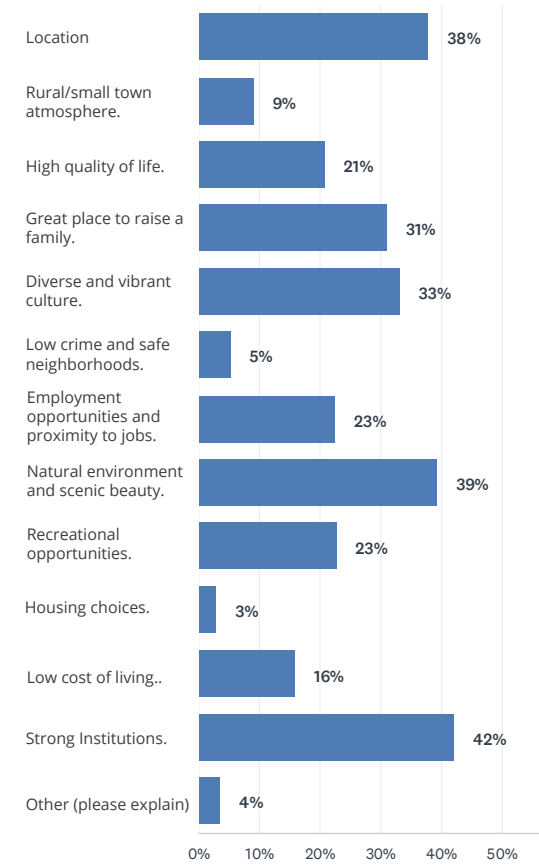
1. Location
2. Natural environment and scenic beauty
3. Strong institutions
4. Rural/Small town atmosphere
5. Great place to raise a family



**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**

Top 5 Responses

1. Rural/Small town atmosphere
1. Location
2. Great place to raise a family
3. Employment opportunities and proximity to jobs
4. Natural environment and scenic beauty



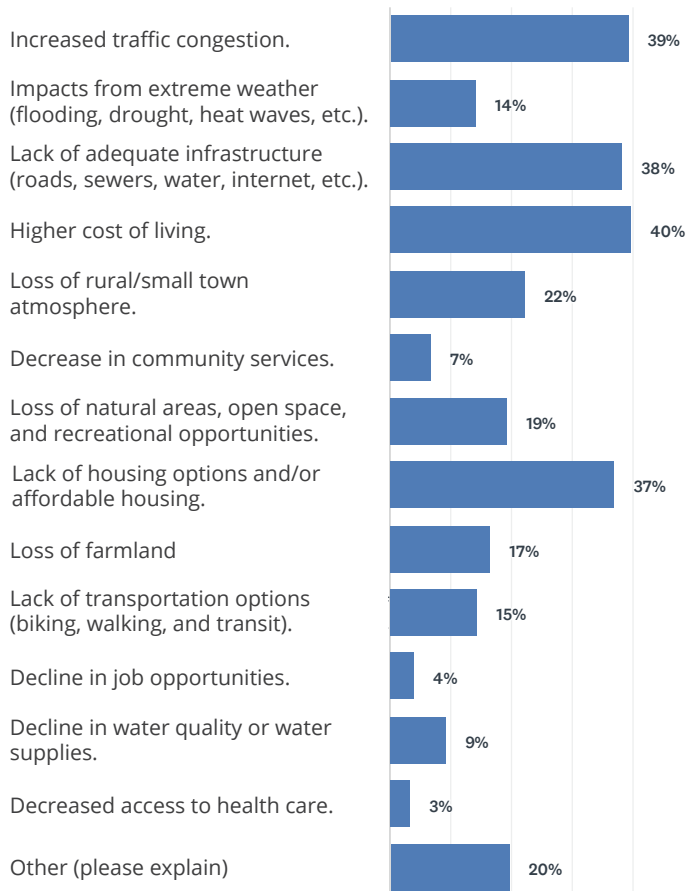
Columbia Residents

Top 5 Responses

1. Strong institutions
2. Natural environment and scenic beauty
3. Location
4. Diverse and vibrant culture
5. Great place to raise a family

In-Progress

Q9. What do you think are the top three challenges to the quality of life in Boone County in the next 20-30 years? [choose up to three]



All Residents

Top 5 Responses

1. Higher cost of living
2. Increased traffic congestion
3. Lack of adequate infrastructure
4. Lack of housing options and/or affordable housing
5. Loss of rural/small town atmosphere

Similarities

Unincorporated, Small Town, and Columbia residents shared similar top five concerns, which included:

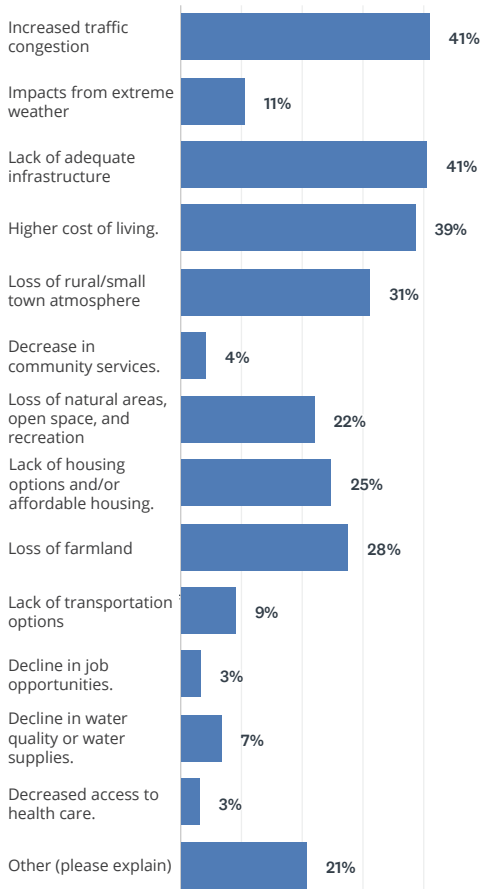
- Increased traffic congestion
- Lack of adequate infrastructure
- Higher cost of living

Notably, all three groups also saw a substantial number of respondents selecting "Other" as their concern, with approximately one out of every five respondents opting for this choice. This is a fivefold increase compared to the number of "Other" responses in the previous question (top strengths of living in Boone County). Among the common "Other" responses were worries about crime and its potential increase in the future. Additional concerns mentioned in the "Other" category included issues related to roads (particularly gravel roads), the homeless population, rising taxes, and inadequate internet access.

Differences

- Lack of housing options and/or affordable housing
"Lack of housing options and/or affordable housing" emerged as a significant concern for approximately half of Columbia residents, clearly ranked as the top challenge for Columbia. This concern was more pronounced among Columbia residents compared to Unincorporated and Small Town residents.
- Loss of rural/small town atmosphere
"Loss of rural/small town atmosphere" was ranked fourth by Unincorporated residents and fifth by Small Town residents. However, among Columbia residents, it held a lower position, ranking eighth in their list of concerns.
- Loss of farmland
Unincorporated residents expressed concerns about "Loss of farmland" about 3.5 times more frequently than Columbia residents, with 28% of Unincorporated residents choosing this concern compared to 8% among Columbia residents.

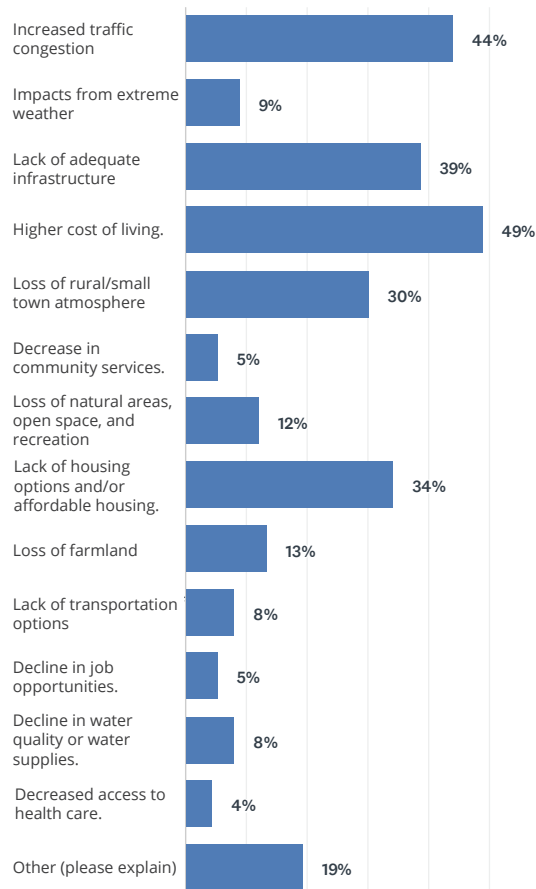
Q9. What do you think are the top three challenges to the quality of life in Boone County in the next 20-30 years? [choose up to three]



Unincorporated Residents

Top 5 Responses

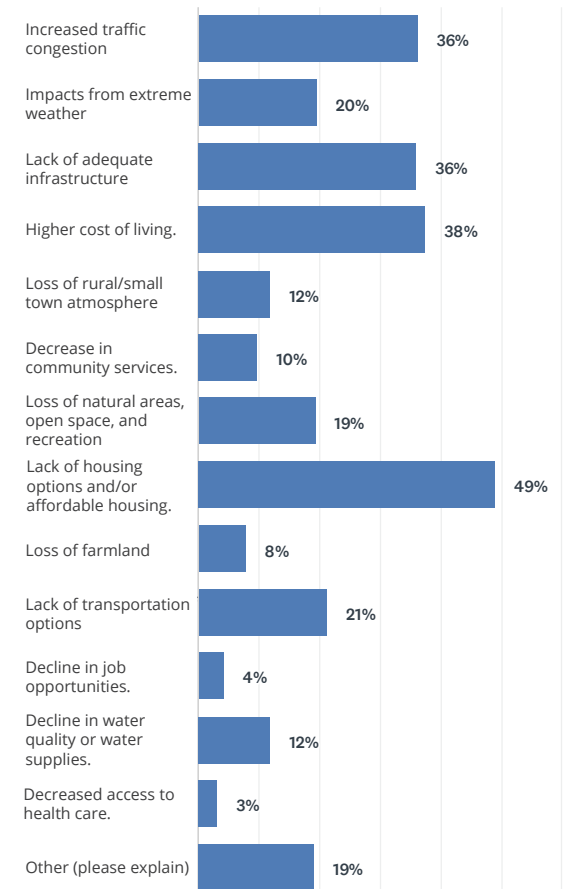
1. Increased traffic congestion
1. Lack of adequate infrastructure
2. Higher cost of living
3. Loss of rural/small town atmosphere
4. Loss of farmland



**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**

Top 5 Responses

1. Higher cost of living
2. Increased traffic congestion
3. Lack of adequate infrastructure
4. Lack of housing options and/or affordable housing
5. Loss of rural/small town atmosphere



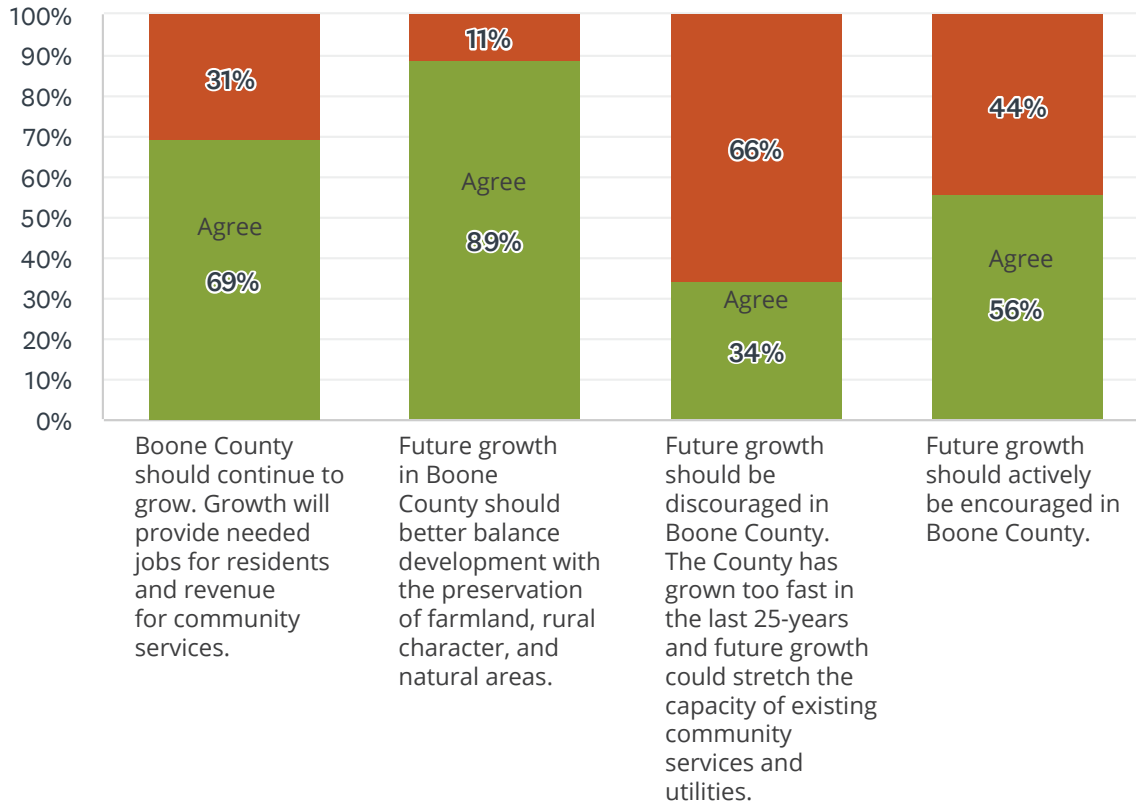
Columbia Residents

Top 5 Responses

1. Lack of housing options and/or affordable housing
2. Higher cost of living
3. Lack of adequate infrastructure
4. Increased traffic congestion
5. Lack of transportation options

In-Progress

Q10. Boone County has experienced a population increase of approximately 50% in the last 25 years. Select whether you 'Agree' or 'Disagree' with each statement below about future growth in the County.



For three of the questions, all three resident groups (Unincorporated, Small Town, and Columbia) showed similar concurrences, although opinions varied to some extent on each question.

The statement "Future growth in Boone County should better balance development with the preservation of farmland, rural character, and natural areas" garnered the most consensus, with close to 90% agreement from all three resident groups selecting "Agree."

The statement "Future growth should be discouraged..." also showcased distinct differences between groups, with 43% of Unincorporated residents choosing "Agree" compared to only 33% of Small Town and 27% of Columbia residents choosing "Agree."

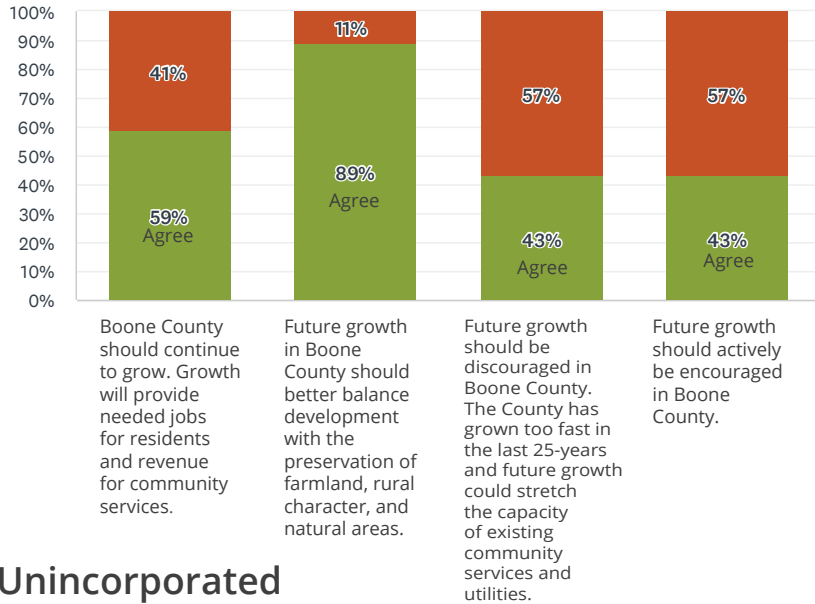
The statement "Future growth should actively be encouraged..." had the least consensus. 56% of All residents chose "Agree," with distinct differences between the groups. Notably, 63% of Columbia and 64% of Small Town residents chose "Agree," in contrast to 43% of Unincorporated residents. Among the four questions posed, this was the sole question where one of the groups, Unincorporated residents, held a different majority opinion. A majority of them (57%) *disagreed* with the statement, in contrast to a majority of Small Town and Columbia residents who *agreed* with the statement.

All Residents

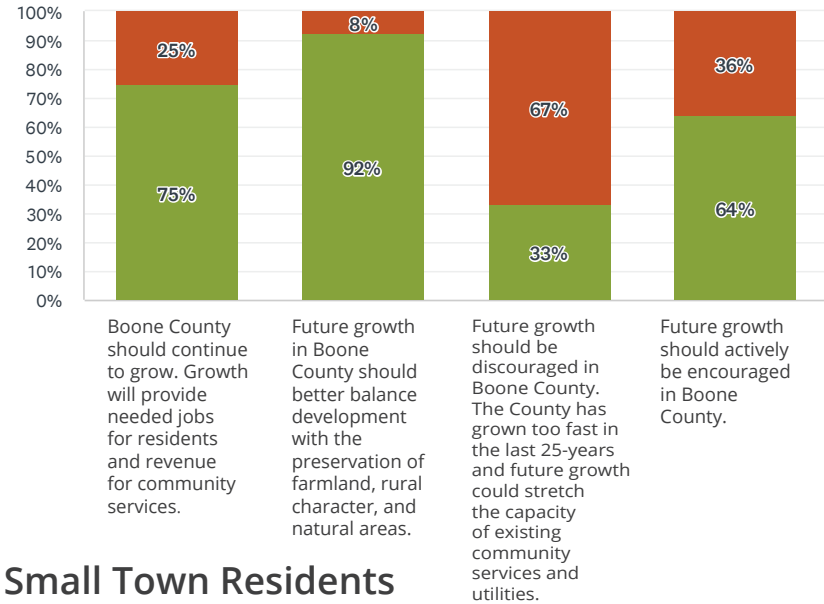


In-Progress

Q10. Boone County has experienced a population increase of approximately 50% in the last 25 years. Select whether you 'Agree' or 'Disagree' with each statement below about future growth in the County.

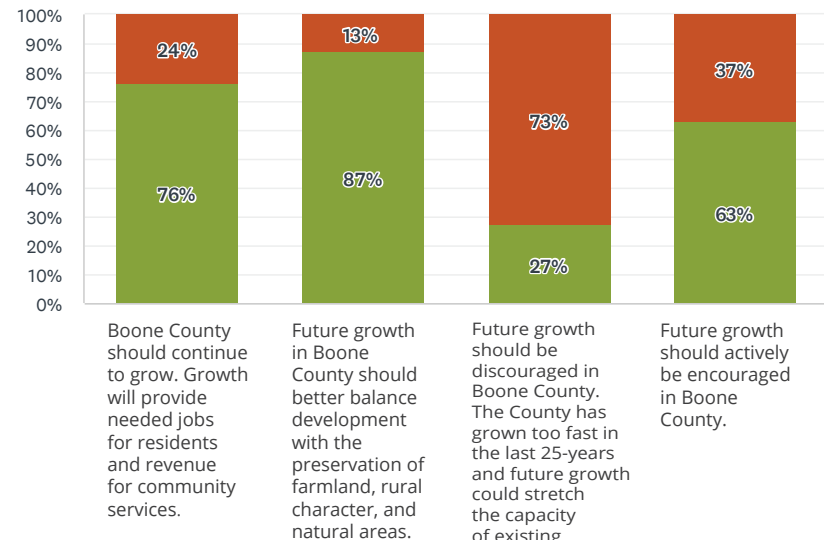


Unincorporated Residents



Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

 Disagree
 Agree



Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q10. Boone County has experienced a population increase of approximately 50% in the last 25 years. Select whether you 'Agree' or 'Disagree' with each statement below about future growth in the County.

Unincorporated Residents (Sample of Comments)

"It's not that I oppose future growth. I believe that future growth should be better planned for and more balanced to support growth in the smaller communities and unincorporated areas (and still encourage better housing options/opportunities which in turn can support appropriate job growth and opportunities."

"Stopping is not an option. The key is balance."

"I can't say I want growth discouraged but we should be much more deliberate about infill."

"While I see many concerns with continued growth in Boone County regarding traffic, infrastructure, and affordability (especially housing), I don't think growth should ever be discouraged."

"Growth in the county should not be controlled by the government, the free market should decide."

"Growth should be regulated by infrastructure development capabilities."

"We need to protect our rural character."

"I think it will grow, wish it would stay small town."

"Growth cannot continue exponentially."

"Future growth should only be encouraged when the needed infrastructure for that growth is budgeted in and completed."

"We choose to live the rural life. If we wanted city life we would live in the city."

Small Town Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Growth has to be accompanied by infrastructure upgrades to accommodate increase in traffic and other need."

"Growth in cities will happen. Growth without planning will result in one big suburb around Columbia. New developments should have natural areas with woods or prairies not just parks with mowed grass and a couple trees."

"I don't think you can stop growth, but you can prepare and plan for it in a way that preserves quality of life and intact ecosystem services. (I hope you can, anyway...)"

"BEFORE growth happens, the county needs to ensure adequate utilities, roads, and infrastructure can support it."

"Growth equates to commerce, jobs, and recruitment for employers to relocate here or for increased medical opportunities."

"We need to grow but at the same time protect farmland, rural character, and natural areas."

"Boone County is NOT just Columbia - they need to expand and grow the WHOLE Boone County area - better serves all the communities surrounding Columbia and will benefit Columbia and the smaller communities that make up Boone County."

"Natural topography, in addition to an abundant amount of protected local, state, and federal properties in the County, will ensure Boone County always maintains a high level of "rural" and "natural" areas."

Columbia Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Growth needs to be sustainable and considerate of the transportation, infrastructure and resource needs of existing and new residents (not overloading water systems, prioritizing walkability/bikeability on new roads and considering proximity of schools and shops when constructing new subdivisions."

"Improve existing infrastructure and services to serve better existing populations."

"Growth is what maintains quality of life for all and funds quality improvement of existing infrastructure. If no growth, will start moving backwards."

"Growth in the unincorporated county should not extend beyond the ability of public services and infrastructure."

"I think Boone County will continue to be an attractive area that people will want to move to for jobs, raising a family, and retirement. But the growth will strain our infrastructure. Proper planning is essential."

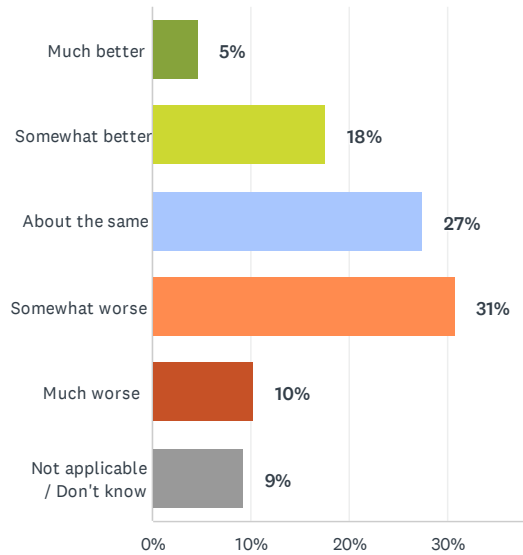
"Growth needs to be carefully managed to be able to meet the challenges of climate change."

"There should be a better balance between the development and preservation of natural areas."

"Growth will happen because of Columbia - because it is a college town. But, we need to have balanced job growth with the increase in population and housing. We need to provide more affordable housing to support people already living here who are struggling to afford a place to live."

In-Progress

Q11. How does the quality of life in Boone County today compare to 25 years ago (or however long you have lived in Boone County)? [choose one]

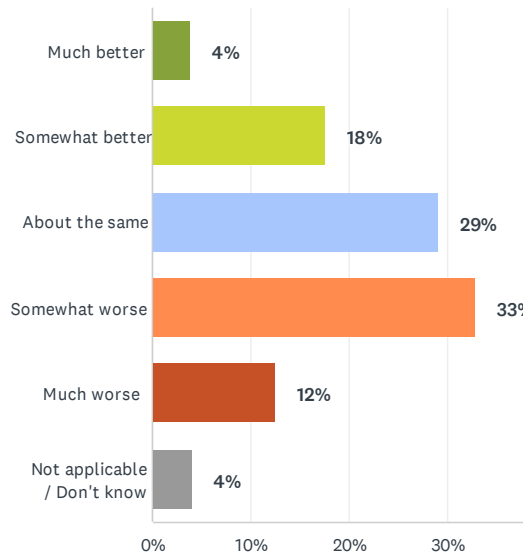


Approximately one-quarter of respondents rated the quality of life as "Much better" or "Somewhat better." However, a notable proportion (41% of all residents) expressed that the quality of life was "Somewhat worse" or "Much worse." This question also saw one of the highest percentages of respondents providing additional comments.

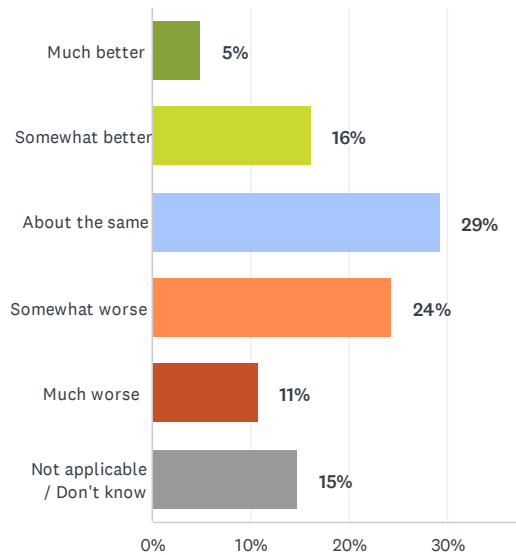
The most frequent response for why quality of life was perceived as "worse" was concerns about rising crime. Other commonly cited reasons included increased traffic, higher cost of living, taxes, and lack of affordable housing.

While the majority of comments were related to the reasons for a perceived decline in quality of life, there were also remarks about why it was seen as "better." These responses included mentions of increased opportunities (such as jobs and shopping), improved healthcare, and enhanced infrastructure.

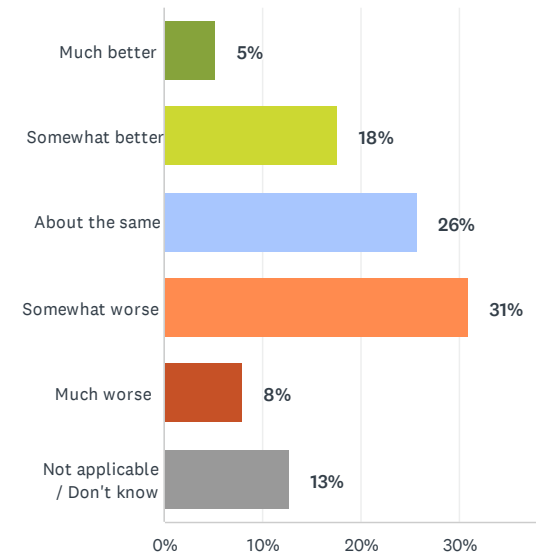
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents



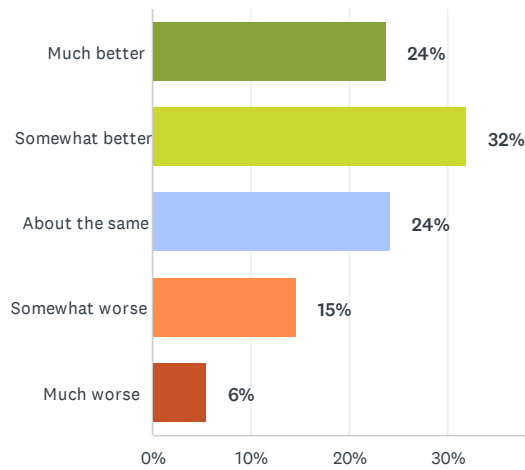
**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**



Columbia Residents

Q12. How would you rate the attractiveness of Boone County compared to surrounding counties?

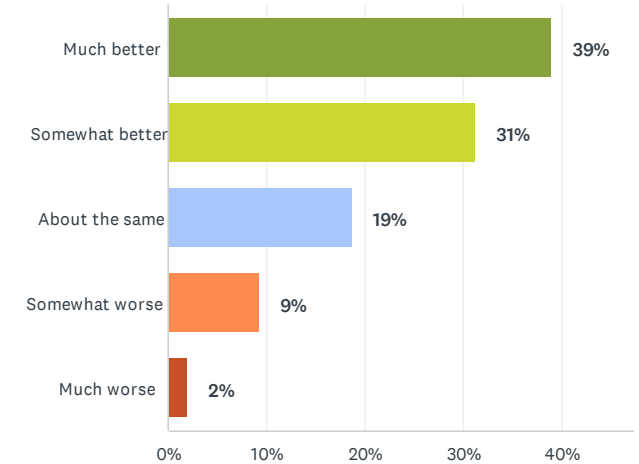
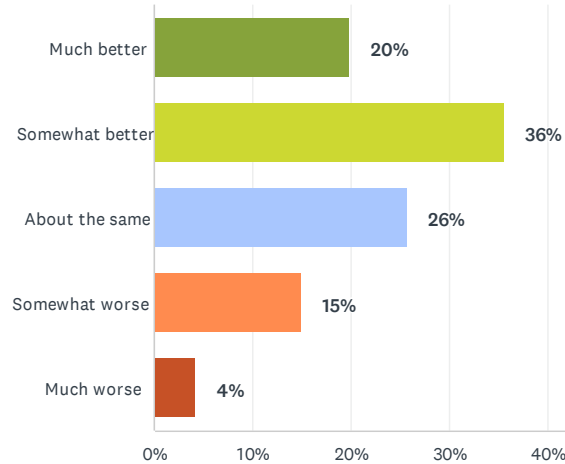
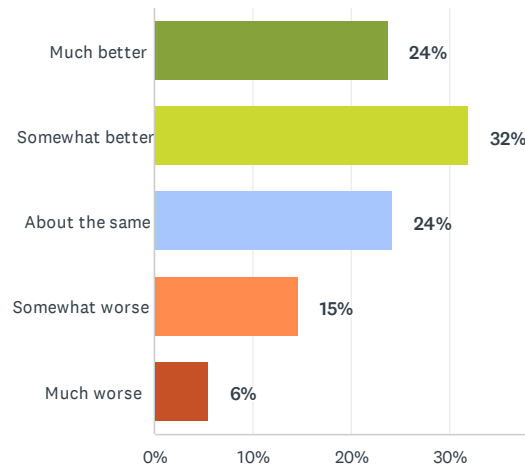
[choose one]



Respondents interpreted this question in two ways: one relating to physical attractiveness and the other to quality of life attractiveness.

The majority of comments were centered around the quality of life and the positive aspects of Columbia. Respondents highlighted the benefits of living in Columbia, such as the presence of the university, quality healthcare, culture, entertainment options, diversity, and various amenities that enhance the overall quality of life.

All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

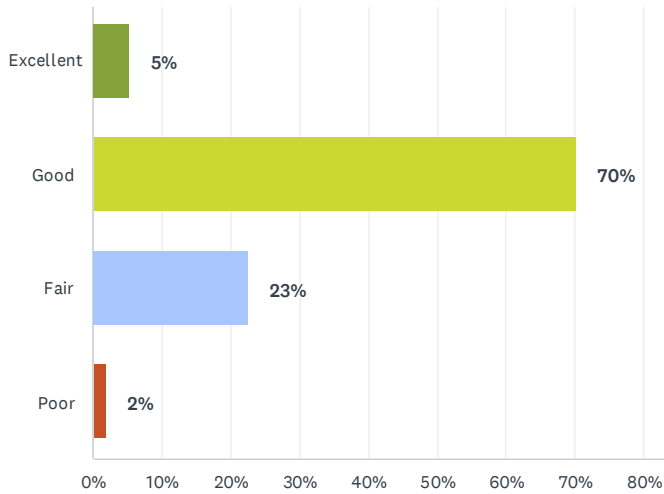
Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

Columbia Residents

In-Progress

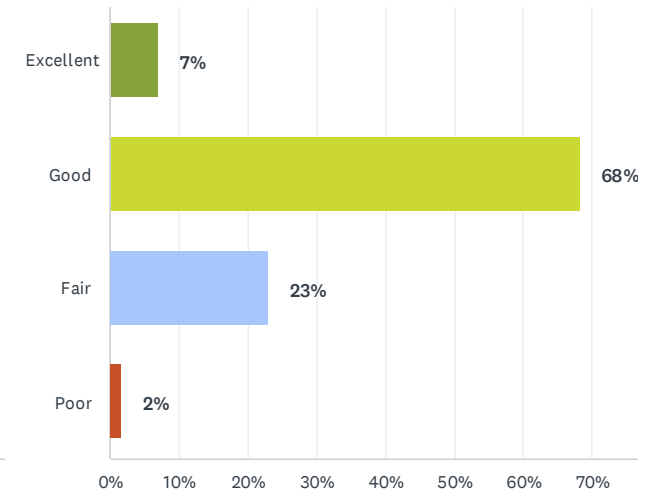
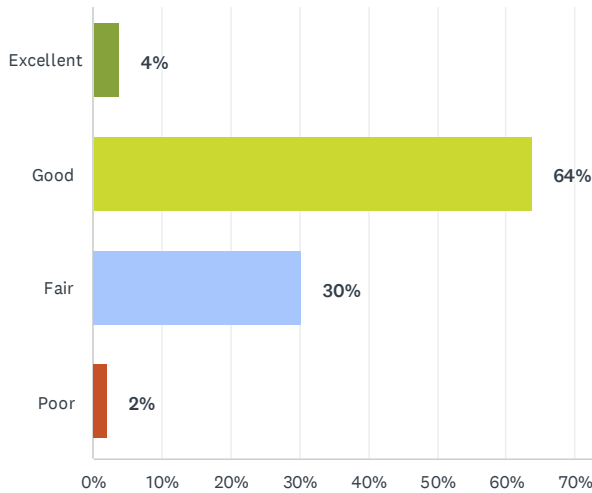
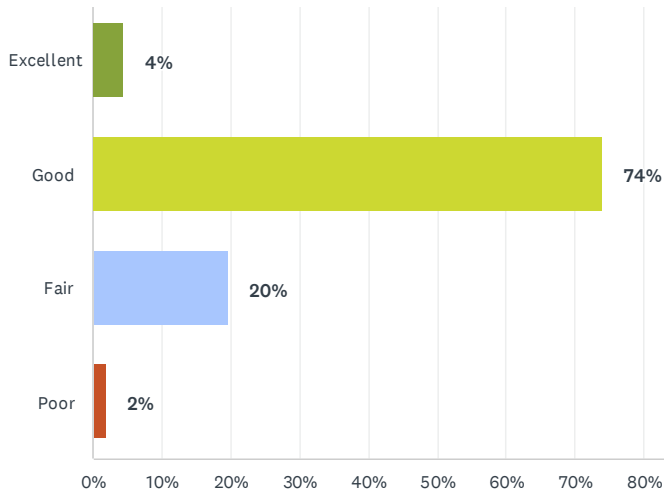
Q13. How would you rate the overall appearance of residential properties in Boone County?

[choose one]



A majority of residents (70-80%) rated residential properties as "Excellent" or "Good." Comments acknowledged the diverse range of housing within Boone County and emphasized that the appearance of properties varied based on location or neighborhood, given the county's size.

All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

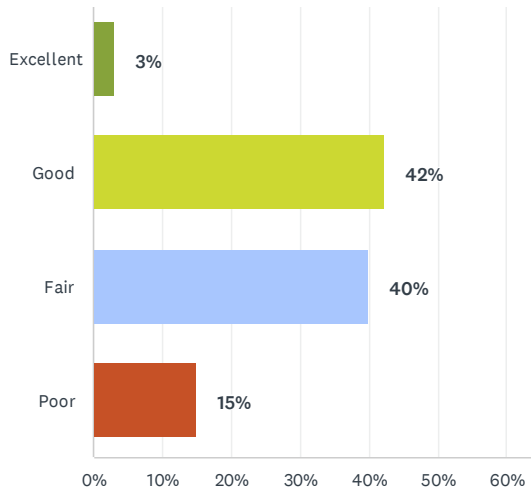
Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q14. How would you rate the existing housing options for keeping and attracting residents?

[choose one]

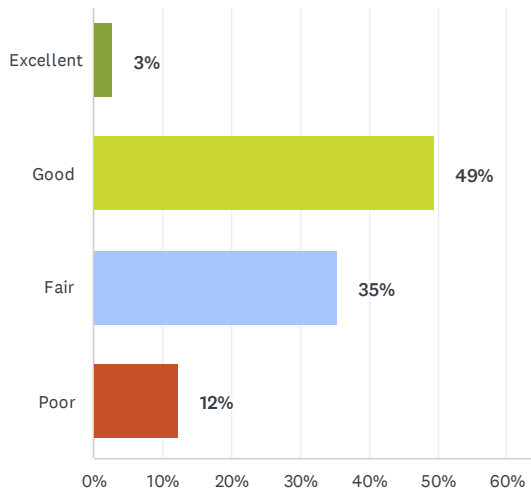


A prevalent concern among all respondents was the rising cost of housing, both in terms of purchasing and renting. Many respondents expressed frustrations about the lack of affordable starter homes, limited options for low and middle-income households, and the perceived poor quality of the available affordable housing.

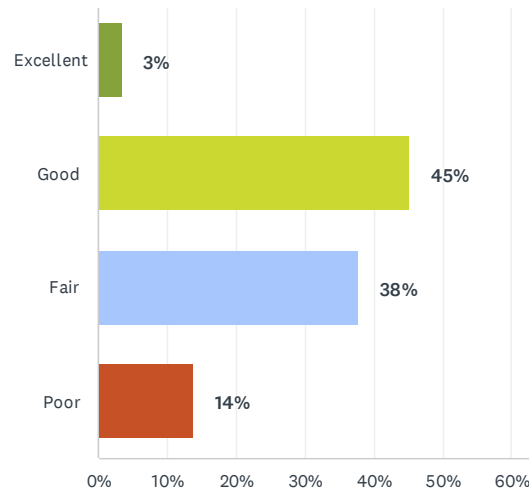
Despite these concerns about affordability, 42% of All residents rated housing options as "Good," with an additional 40% rating them as "Fair." Only 15% rated the options as "Poor."

Columbia residents had a slightly more negative perspective on housing options, with 45% rating them as "Fair" and 18% as "Poor."

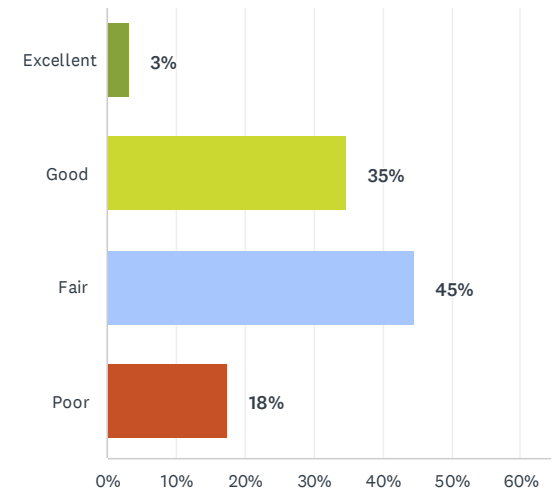
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents



Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)



Columbia Residents

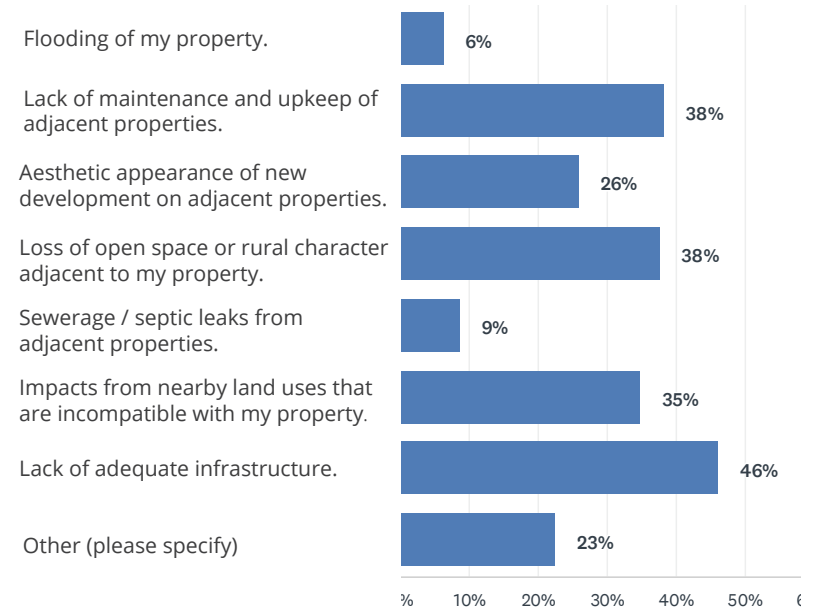
In-Progress

Q15. What are your top three concerns that may affect the value of your home or property? [Choose up to three]

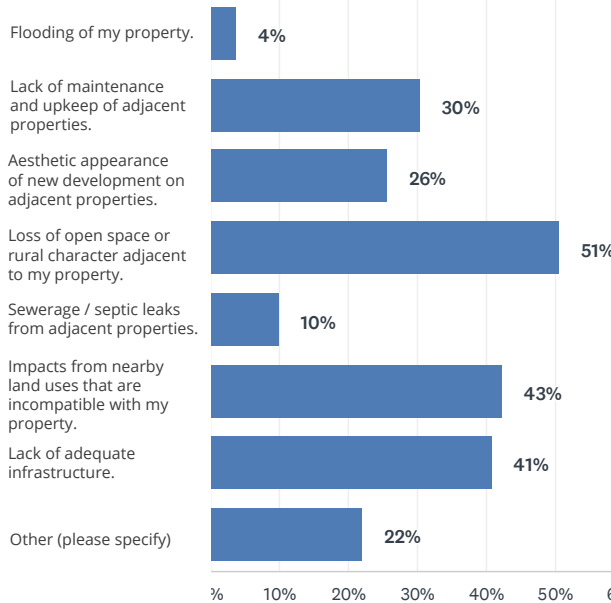
For Unincorporated residents, "Loss of open space or rural character adjacent to my property" emerged as the top concern, whereas it was ranked third by Small Town residents and fifth by Columbia residents. Another key concern for Unincorporated residents was "Impacts from nearby land uses that are incompatible with my property."

"Lack of adequate infrastructure" was a shared concern strongly expressed by all three resident groups, with Small Town and Columbia residents ranking it as their top concern.

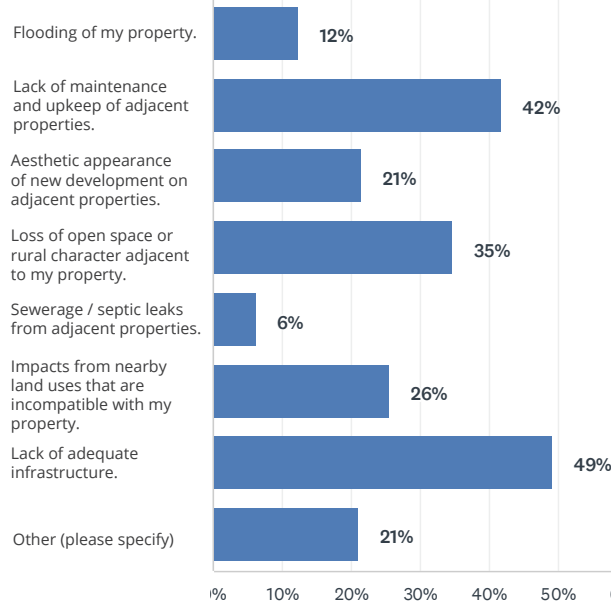
Each of the three groups had a notable number of "Other" responses, exceeding 20%. These "Other" responses varied widely. Unincorporated residents specifically mentioned poor internet and road maintenance, including concerns about gravel roads. In contrast, Columbia residents mentioned a range of issues such as crime, road maintenance, homelessness, and climate change.



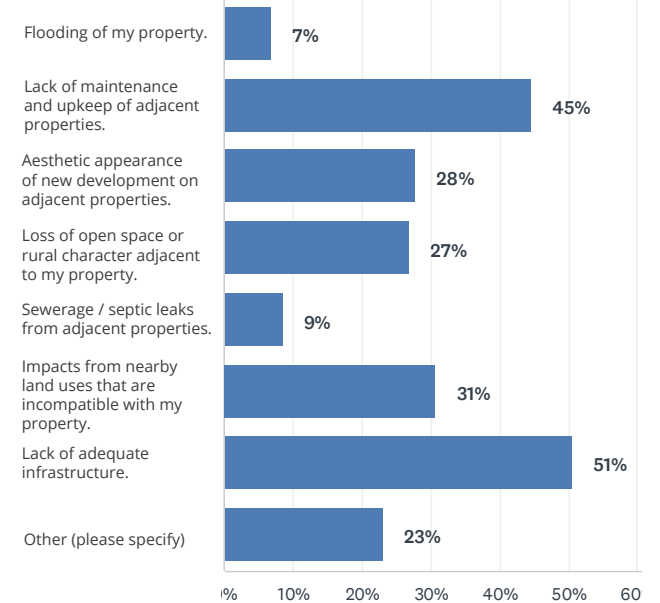
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

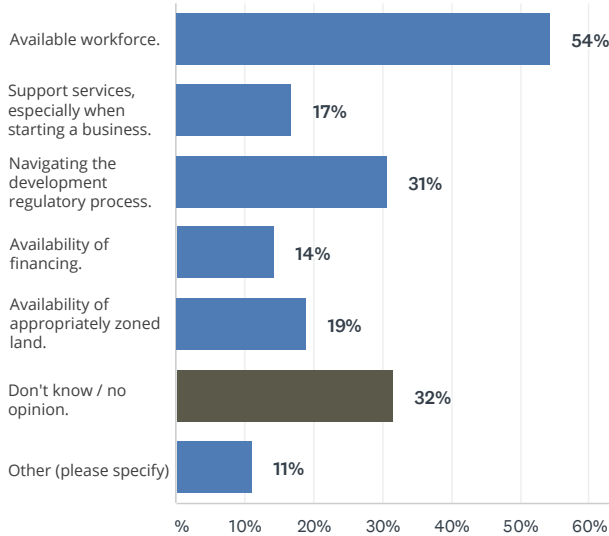


Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)



Columbia Residents

Q16. What challenges do business owners face in Boone County? [choose all that apply]

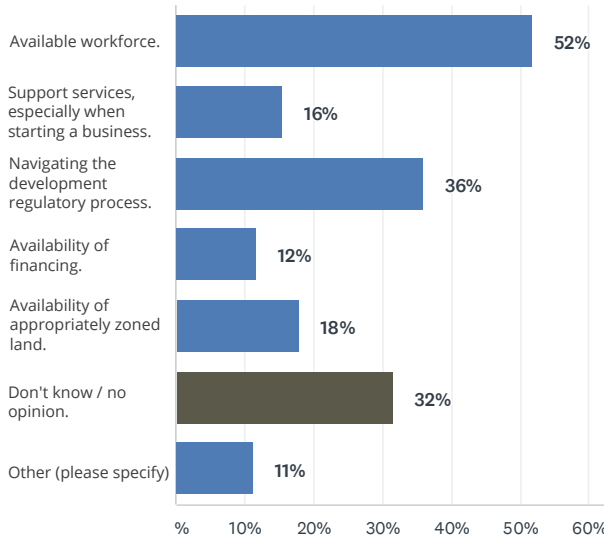


According to the rankings by All residents, the top challenge for business owners was identified as "Available workforce." All three resident groups had a consistent ranking for this concern.

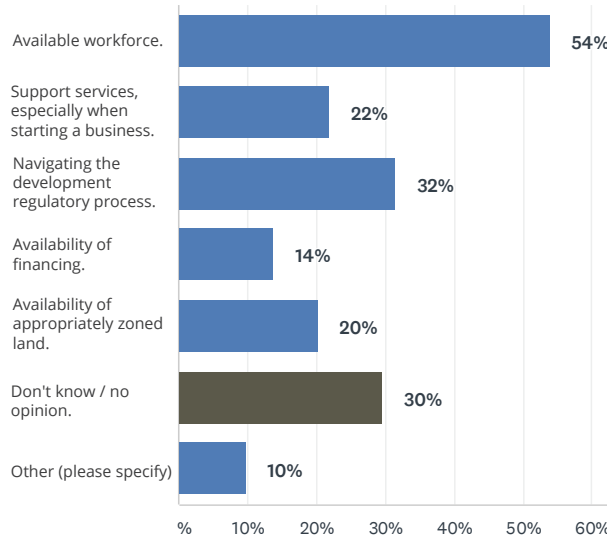
Approximately one-third of respondents chose "Don't know / no opinion."

Around 11% of respondents selected "Other," and these responses displayed a wide range of concerns. Some of the "Other" responses included issues like poor internet connectivity, regulatory challenges, and concerns about the availability and cost of space.

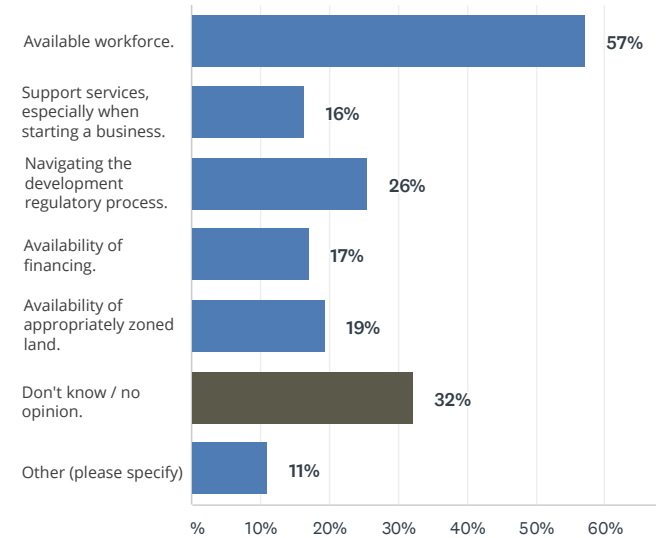
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents



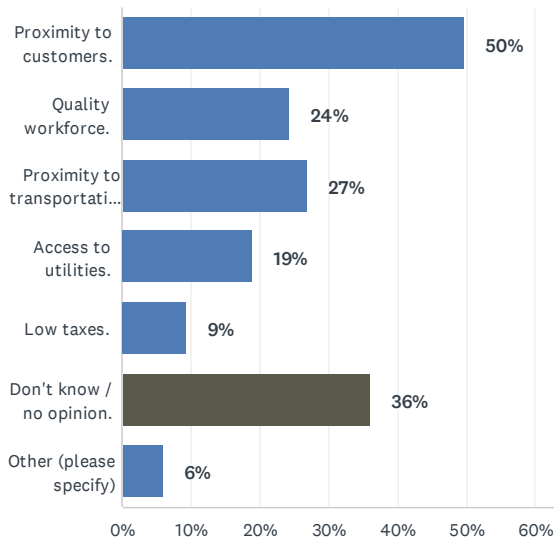
Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)



Columbia Residents

Q17. What are the key reasons for locating a business in Boone County?

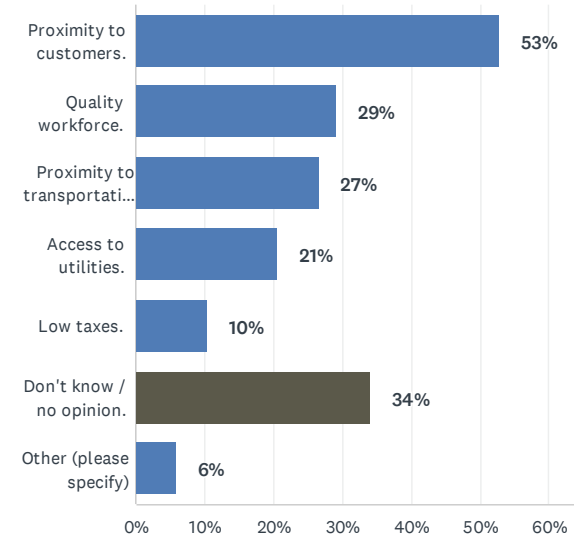
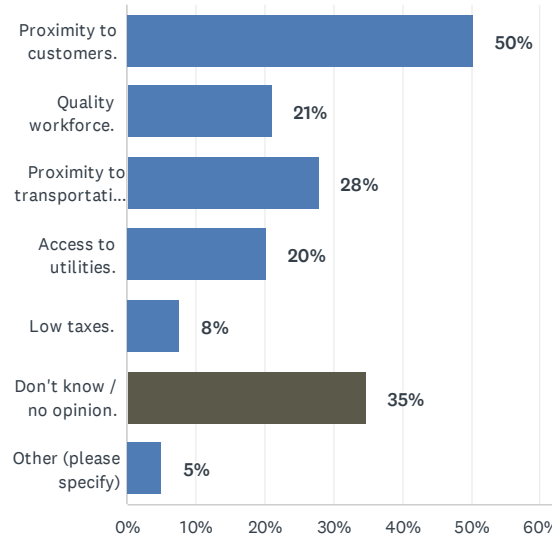
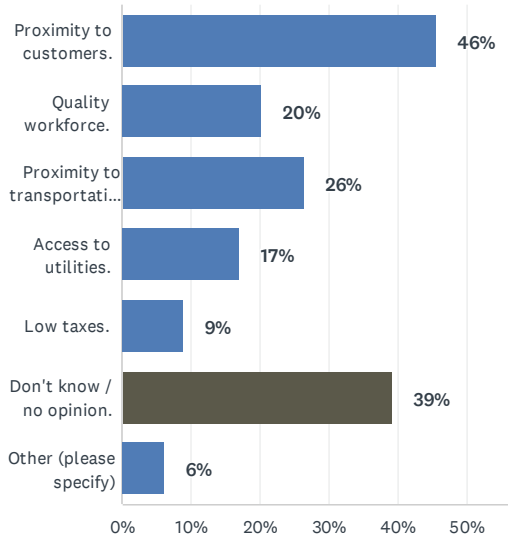
[Choose all that apply]



"Proximity to customers" was the top reason for locating a business in Boone County as ranked by All residents. All three resident groups ranked "Proximity to customers" fairly consistently.

About one-third of respondents chose "Don't know / no opinion."

All Residents



Unincorporated Residents

Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

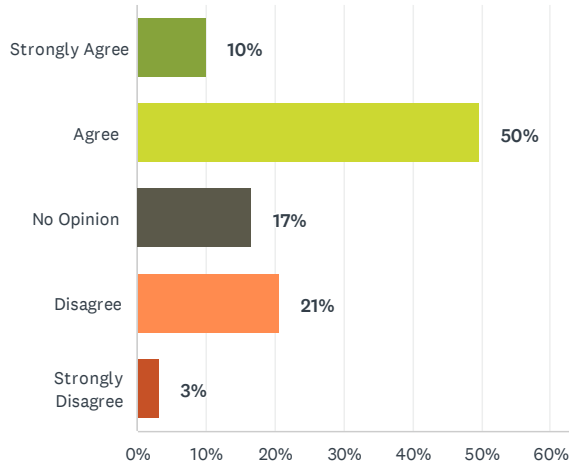
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

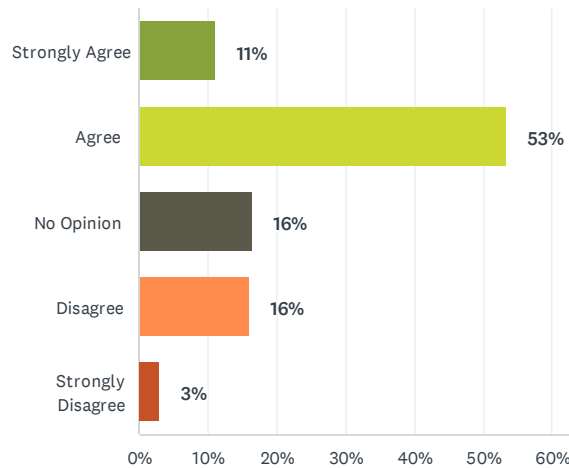
Q18. Do you agree that there are adequate job opportunities in Boone County (i.e. jobs that pay a living wage, provide benefits, and opportunities for advancement)? [choose one]

A majority of respondents agreed that there are adequate job opportunities in Boone County. Specifically, 10% of All residents chose "Strongly Agree," and 50% selected "Agree."

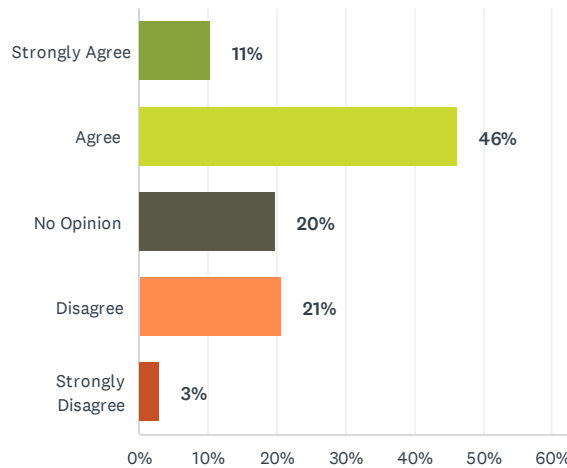
However, about one-quarter of respondents disagreed with this sentiment. A recurring theme in the comments was the concern that wages, particularly at entry level positions, were not keeping pace with the rising cost of living, including housing, childcare, healthcare, and transportation.



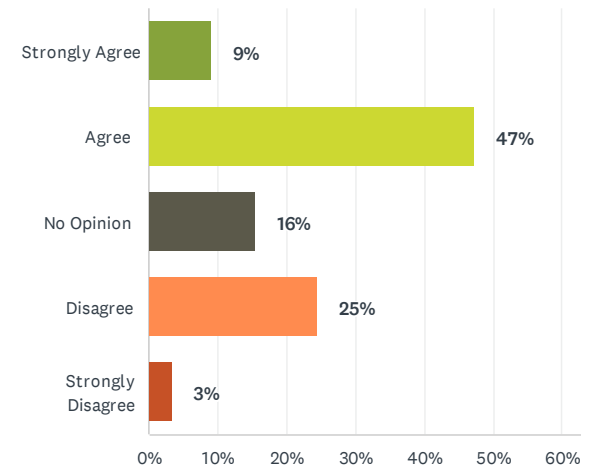
All Residents



Unincorporated Residents



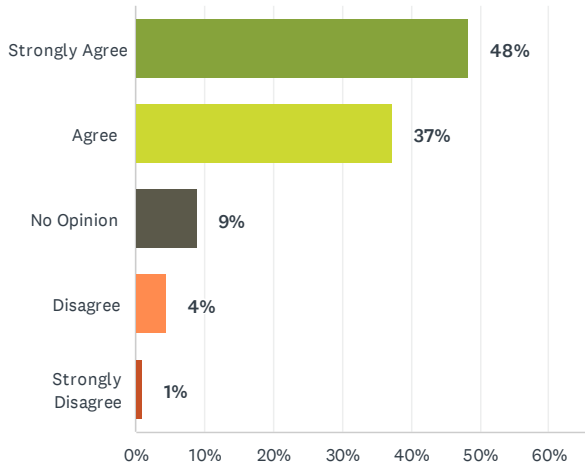
Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)



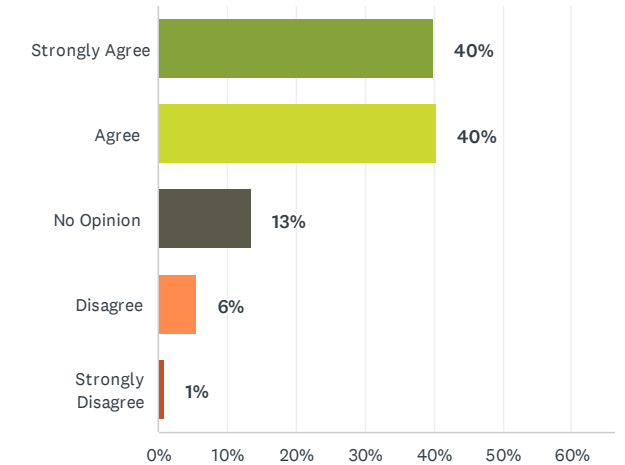
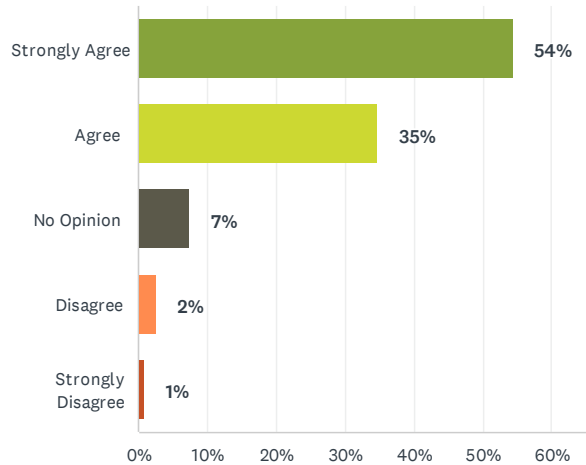
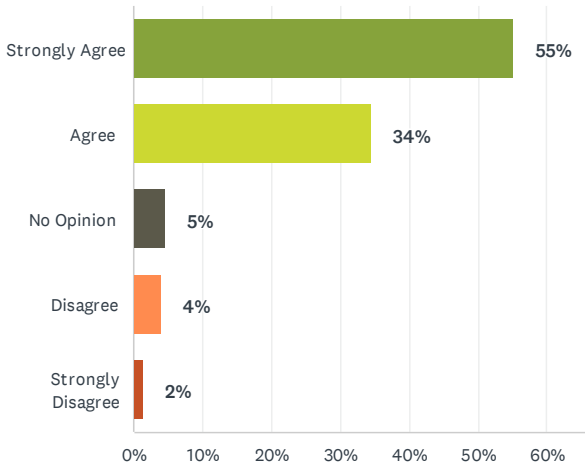
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q19. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Farming and family farms are important to the economy of Boone County"?



All Residents



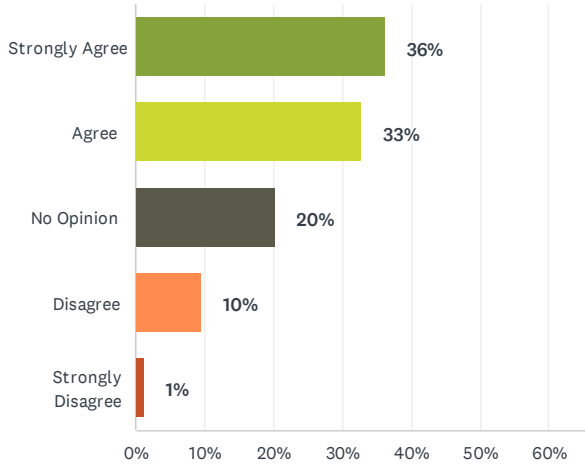
Unincorporated Residents

Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

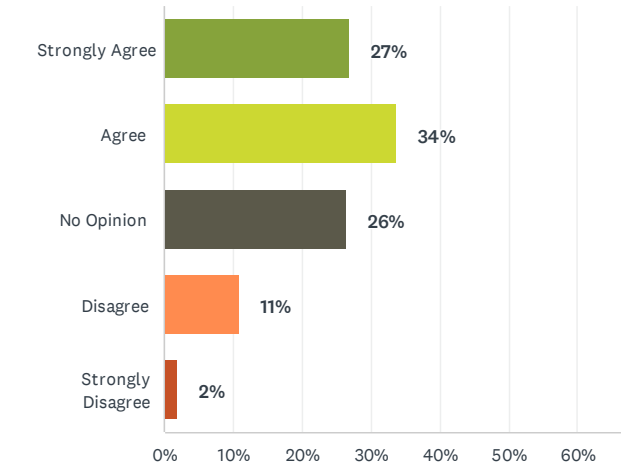
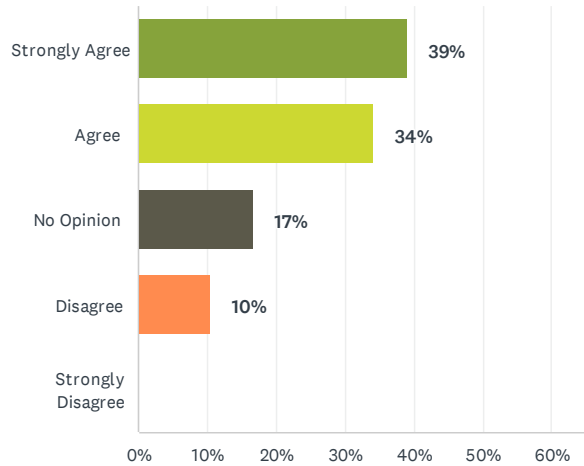
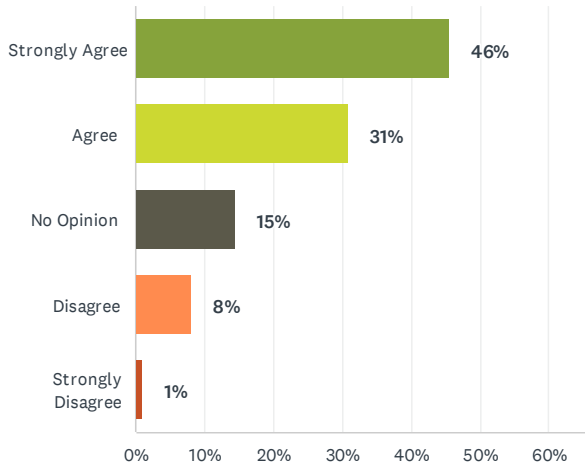
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q20. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "The loss of prime farmland is a concern in Boone County"?



All Residents

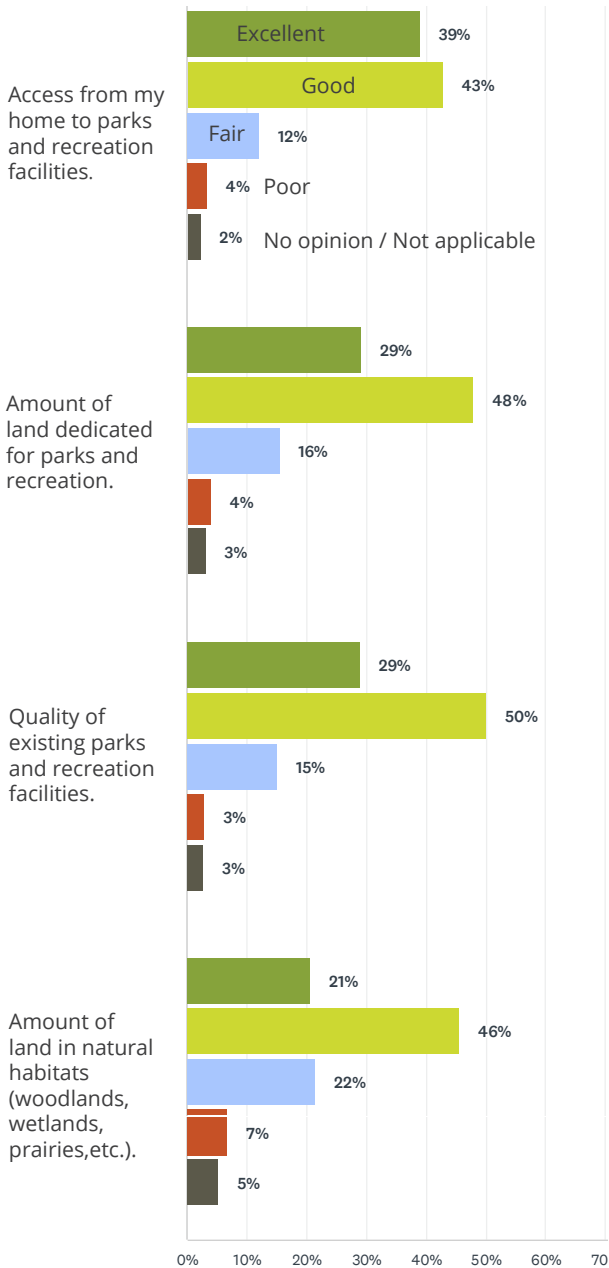


Unincorporated Residents

Small Town Residents (All cities except for Columbia)

Columbia Residents

Q21. How would you rate the following for natural areas, parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Boone County?



All Residents

Notes

All residents provided favorable ratings for all four questions, ranging from 67% rating "Amount of land in natural habitats..." as "Excellent" or "Good," to 82% rating "Access from my home to parks and recreation facilities" as "Excellent" or "Good."

A significant majority of Columbia residents, nearly 90%, rated "Access from my home to parks and recreation facilities" as "Excellent" or "Good," with over half giving it an "Excellent" rating. In comparison, while access was also rated favorably by Unincorporated and Small Town residents, the rating for "Excellent" was lower, with 31% for Unincorporated residents and 27% for Small Town residents.

Unincorporated Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Boone County's high-quality natural areas, public spaces, and recreational facilities are heavily centered around Columbia (and especially wealthy parts of Columbia), so access to them is highly dependent on where you live."

"There could always be more. But Boone county is home to some beautiful natural areas."

"Plenty of parks and nature areas and we don't need lots of investment in this."

"Parks for recreation are wonderful, but we have got to prioritize our natural habitats before they're lost forever."

Small Town Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Plenty in central / southern Boone. Limited in northern Boone."

"I believe there are too many parks and recreation in Boone county."

"More parks, trails and recreational areas are needed in our smaller cities around Columbia."

Columbia Residents (Sample of Comments)

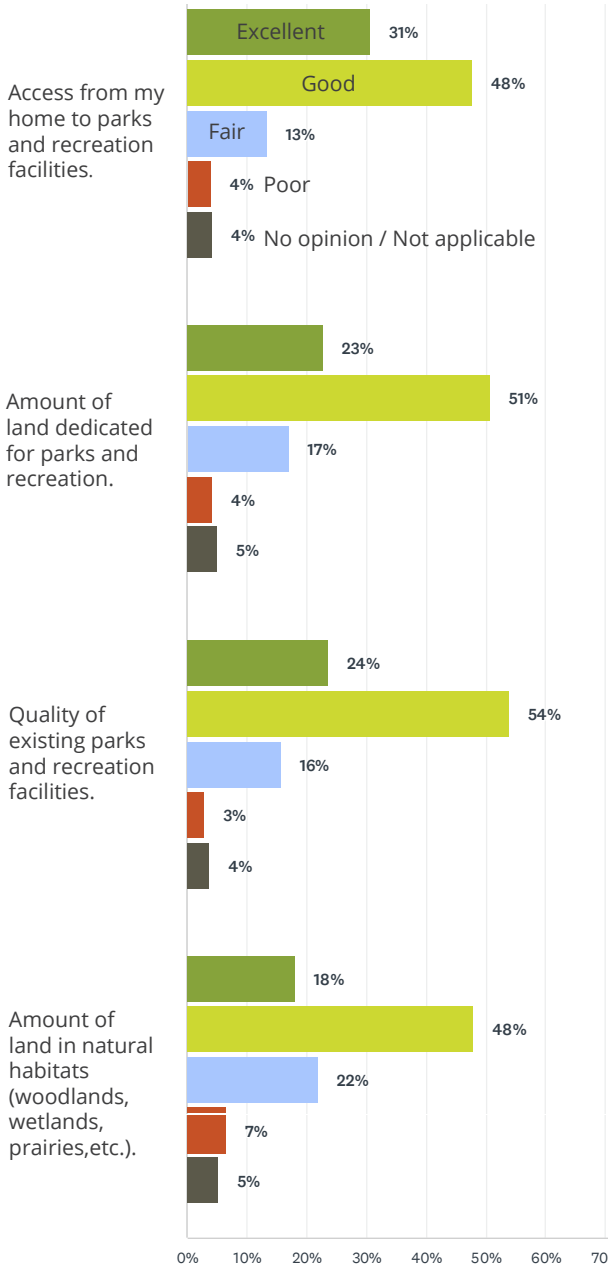
"The trails and parks are very accessible from my home and they are very well maintained."

"Love Columbia and Boone County's access to parks and open space. We have many opportunities from Columbia Parks and Rec, 2 State Parks, Multiple MO Dept of Conservation and National Forest (southern/eastern Boone county)."

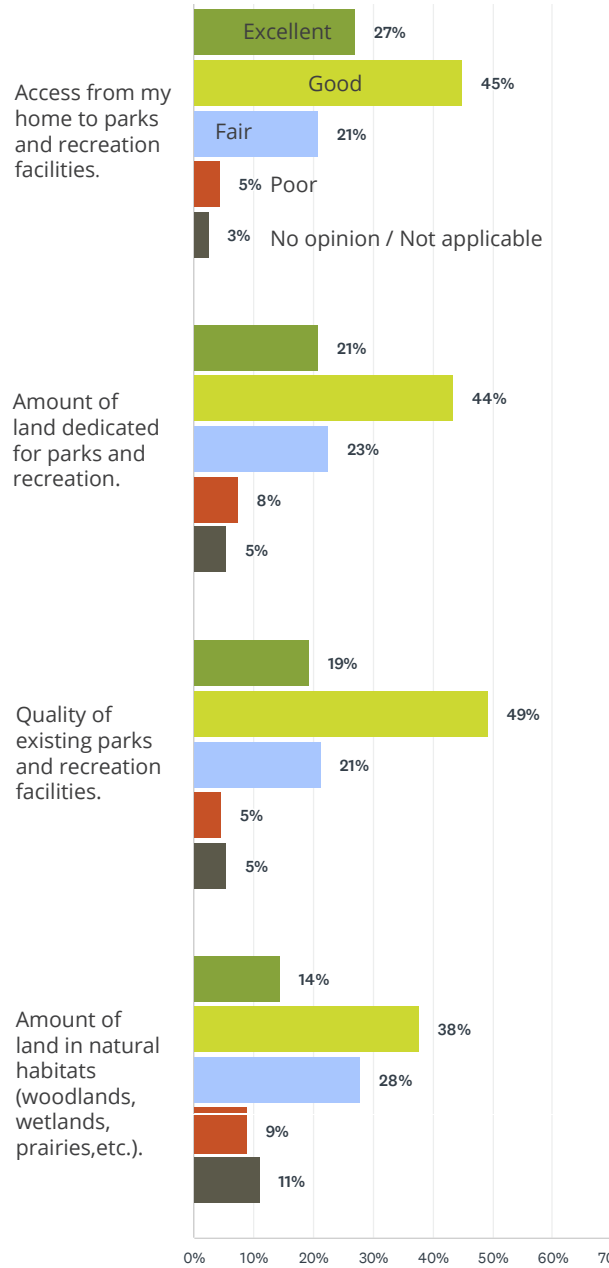
"One of the best - if not the very best - thing about Columbia is our parks and rec. Bravo!"

"Do need more parks, problems with upkeep to current, need more employees"

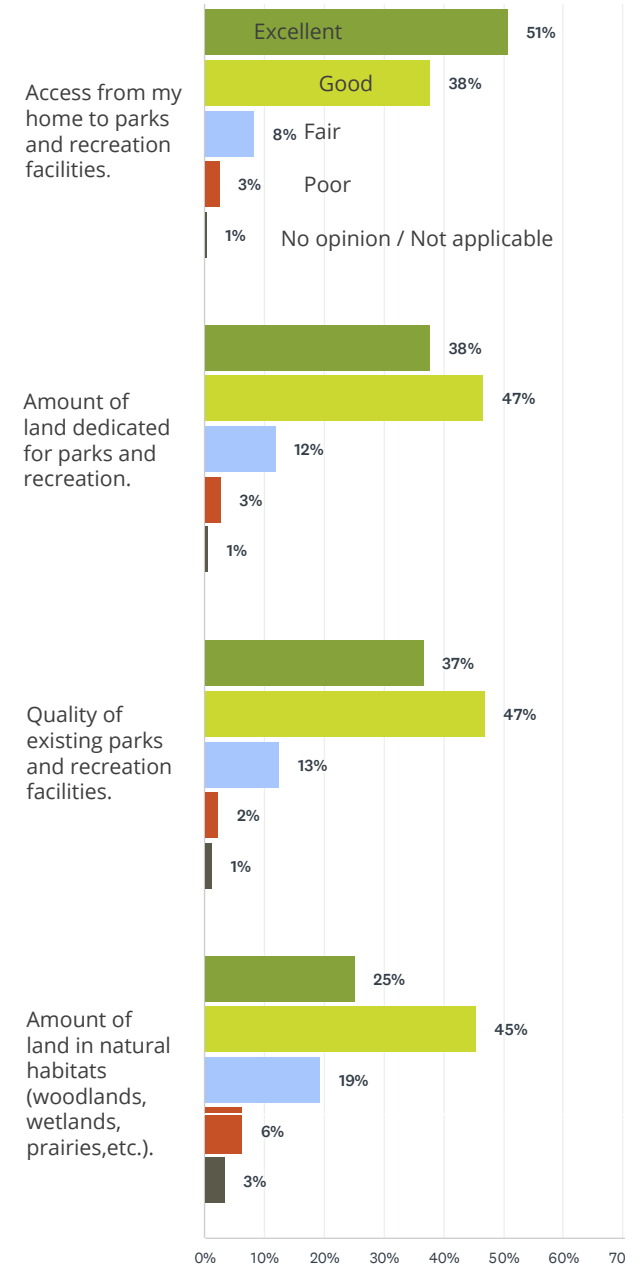
Q21. How would you rate the following for natural areas, parks, open space, and recreation facilities in Boone County?



Unincorporated Residents



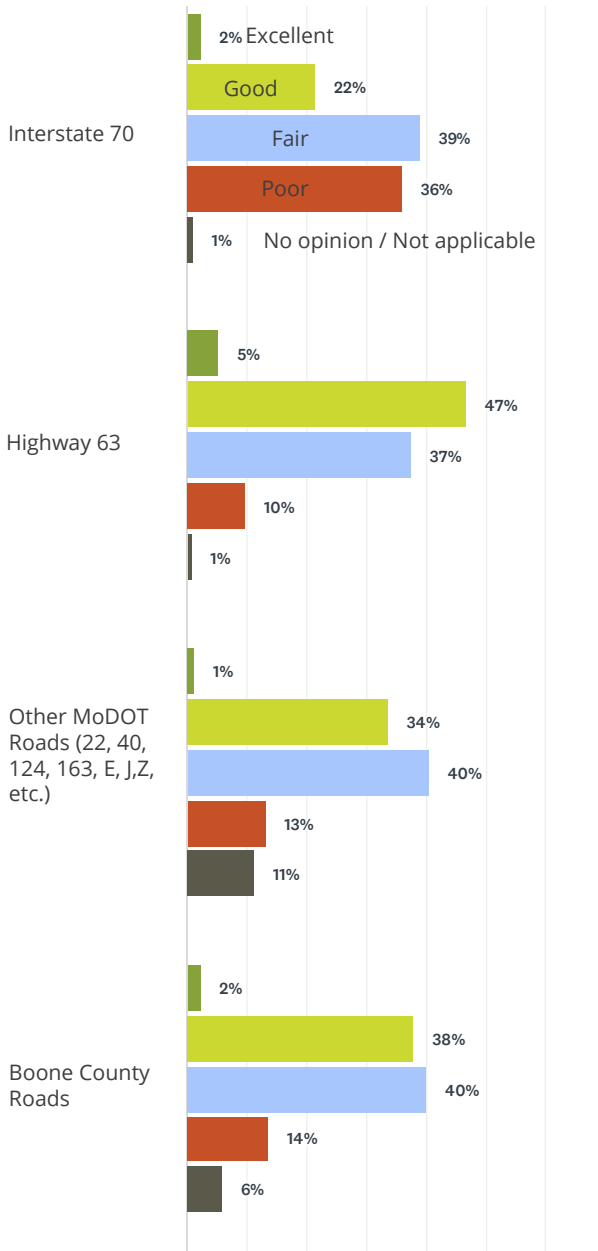
**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**



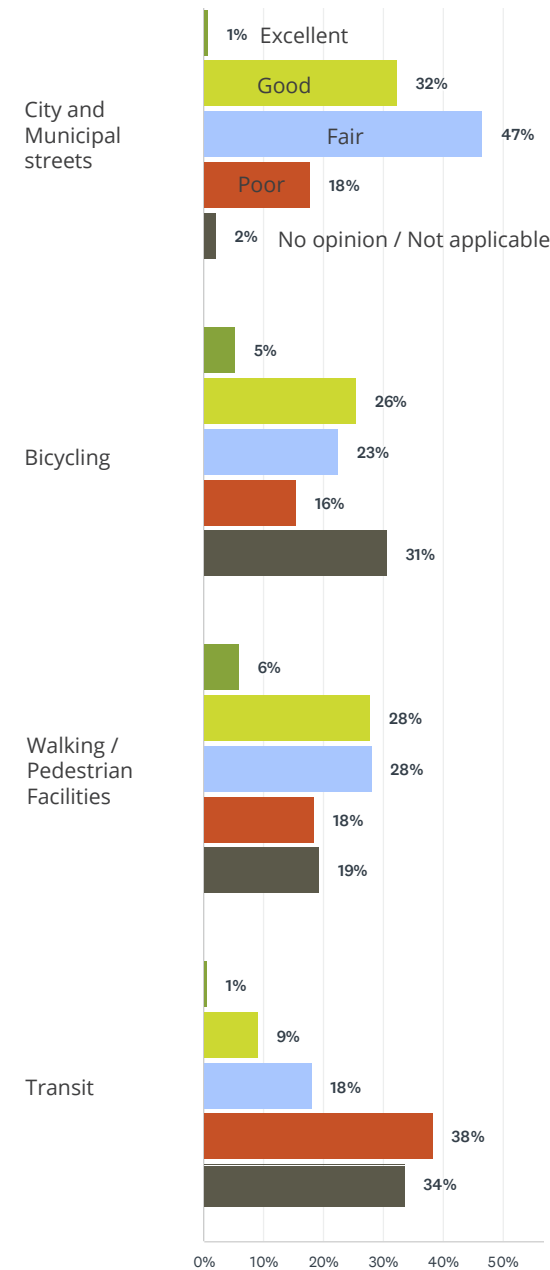
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q22. How would you rate the following modes of transportation in Boone County (in terms of condition, safety, lack of congestion, access, etc.)?



All Residents



All Residents

Notes

In a big county with many different types of transportation (rural highways, urban sidewalks, trails, etc), responses were not surprisingly varied and often very location specific.

Interstate 70 and Transit received the most negative ratings, with 36% of All residents rating Interstate 70 as "Poor" and 38% rating Transit as "Poor."

Gravel Roads

For residents living in unincorporated areas where gravel roads are prevalent, there was a common desire for paved roads. Despite concerns about gravel roads, approximately 75% of Unincorporated residents rated Boone County Roads as "Good" or "Fair."

Transit

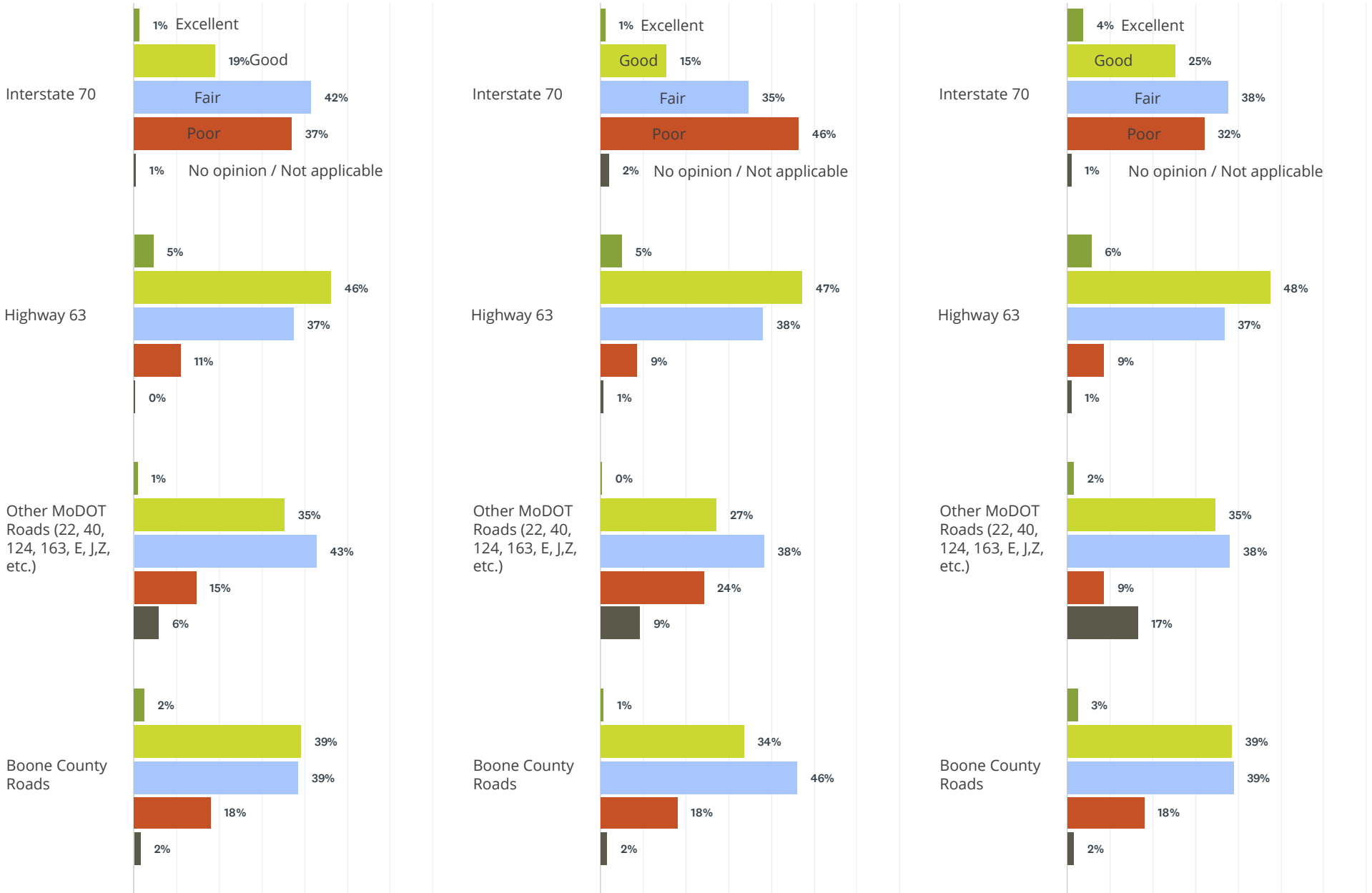
Transit received notably high "Poor" ratings, particularly from Columbia residents, with many comments highlighting the inadequacy of transit options.

Safety

Safety concerns were frequently mentioned, encompassing issues like lack of shoulders, high traffic speeds, and worries for the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

In-Progress

Q22. How would you rate the following modes of transportation in Boone County (in terms of condition, safety, lack of congestion, access, etc.)? 1 of 2

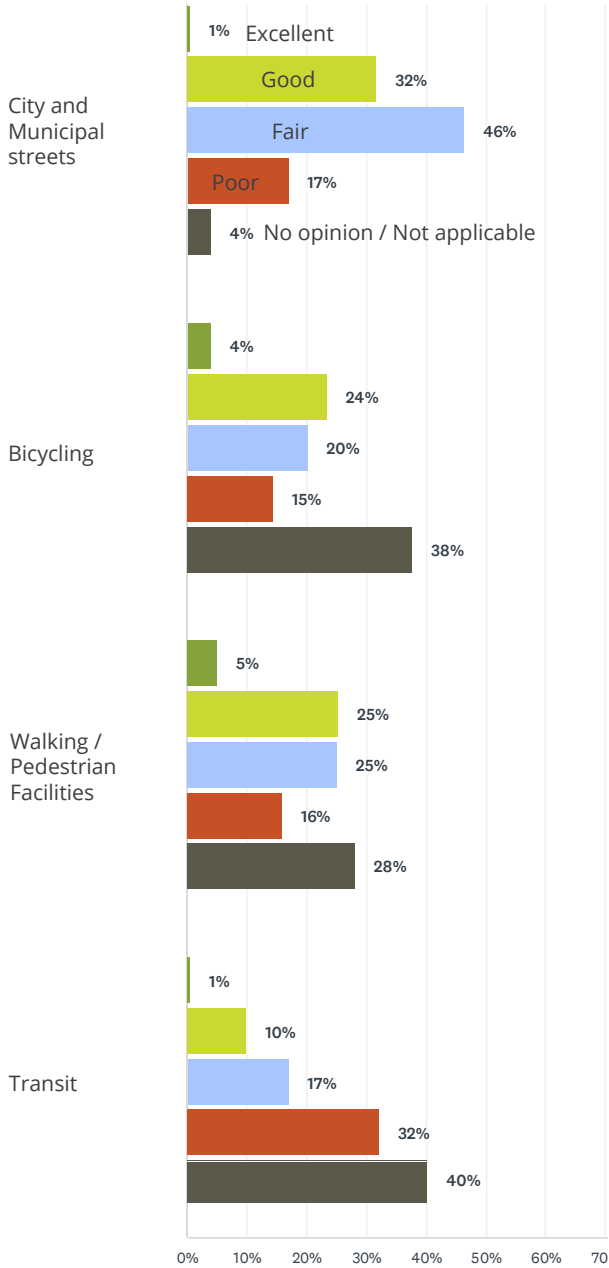


Unincorporated Residents

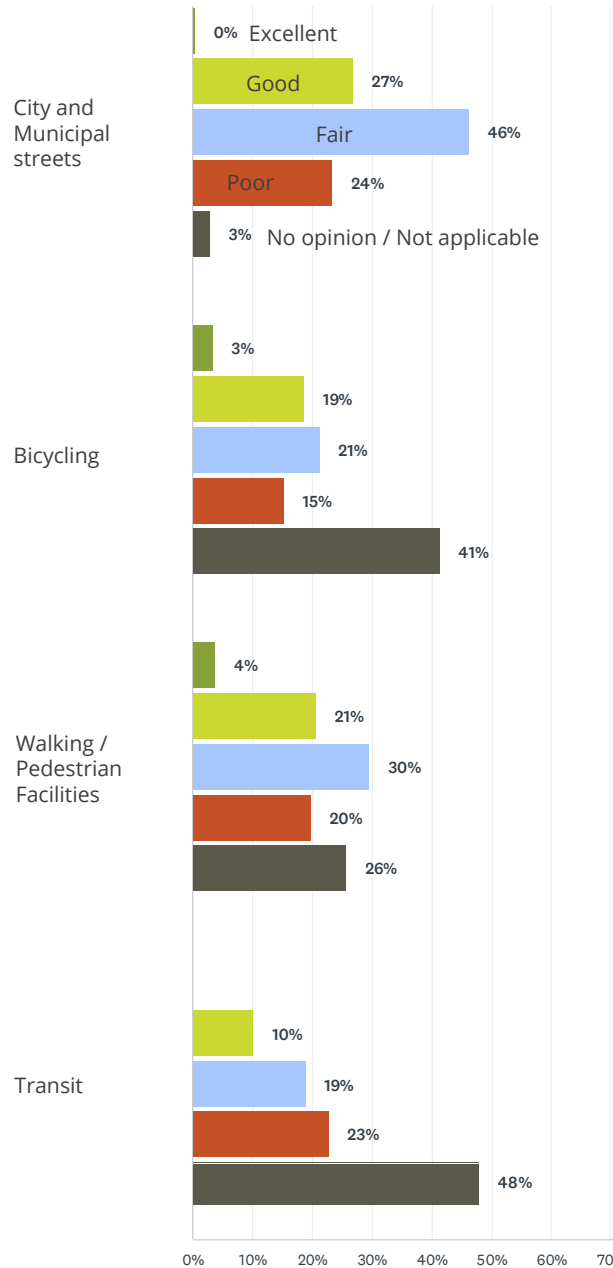
Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)

Columbia Residents

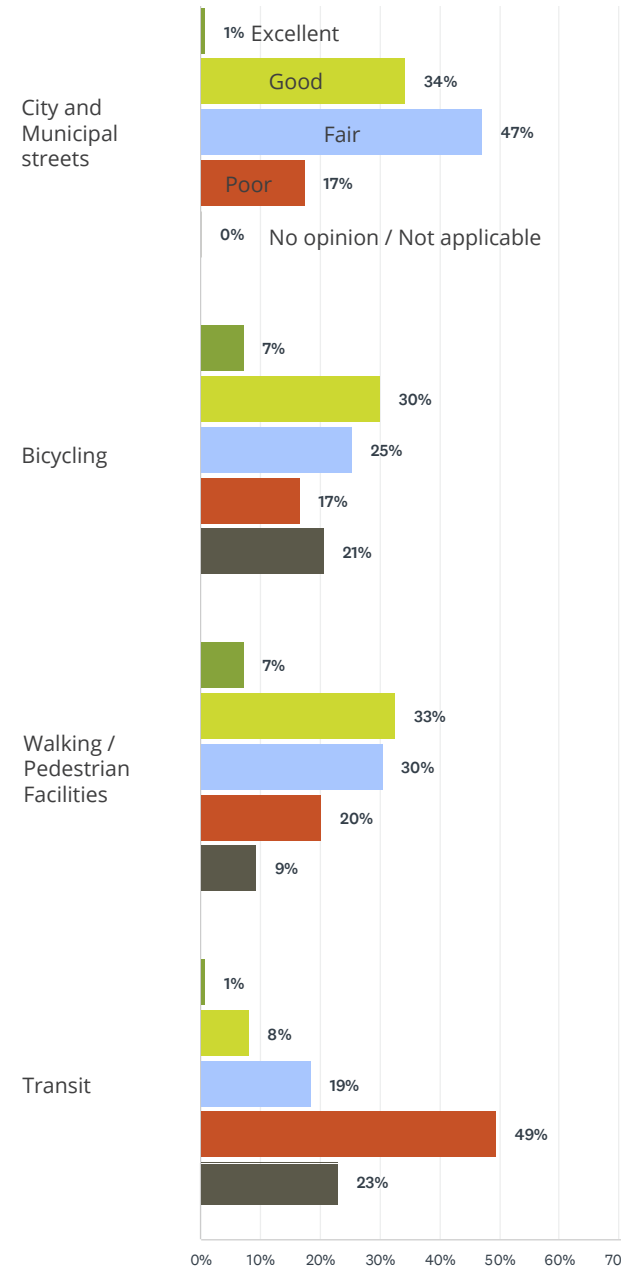
Q22. How would you rate the following modes of transportation in Boone County (in terms of condition, safety, lack of congestion, access, etc.)? 2 of 2



Unincorporated Residents



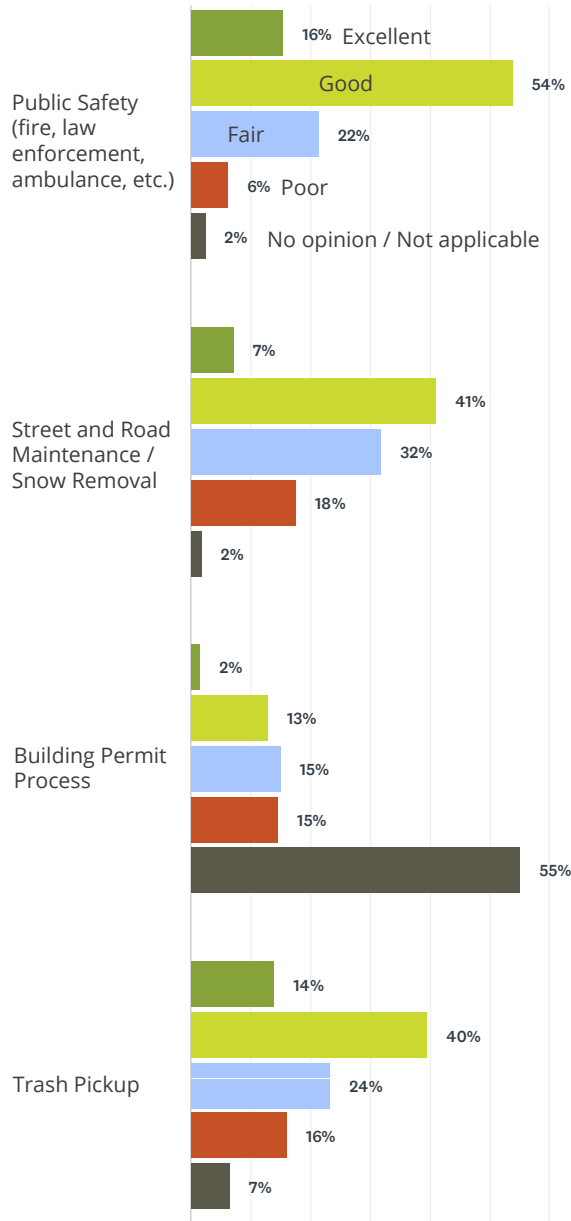
**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**



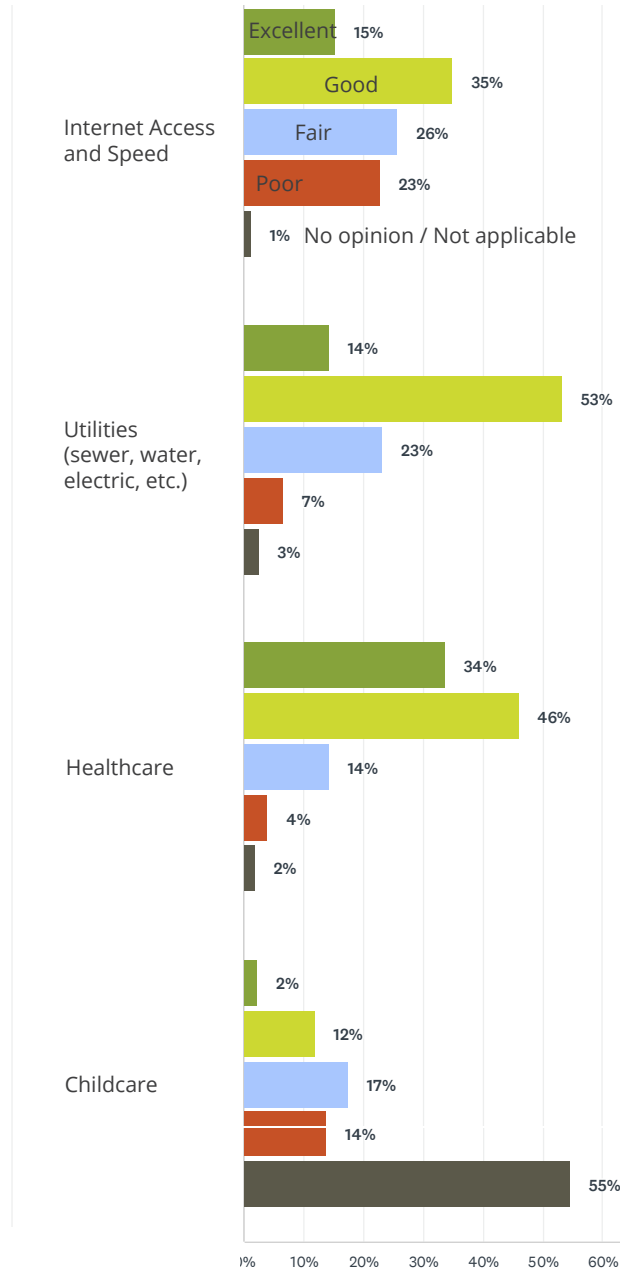
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

Q23. How would you rate the following community services and facilities for your home or immediate community (in terms of quality, proximity, availability, etc.)?



All Residents



All Residents

Notes

Lack of High Speed Internet

Approximately 40% of unincorporated residents rated internet as "Poor," compared to 15% of Small Town and 9% of Columbia residents.

Concerns about Childcare Availability

Concerns about the lack of affordable or available childcare were frequently mentioned in comments. Excluding respondents who indicated "No opinion," **almost a third** of those offering an opinion rated childcare as "Poor."

Access to Healthcare

Overall, healthcare received a very positive rating, with approximately 80% of responses rating it as "Excellent" or "Good." However, Small Town residents rated healthcare somewhat lower, with 67% ranking it as "Excellent" or "Good." This lower ranking appears to be influenced by the availability of healthcare options in the smaller towns.

Utilities

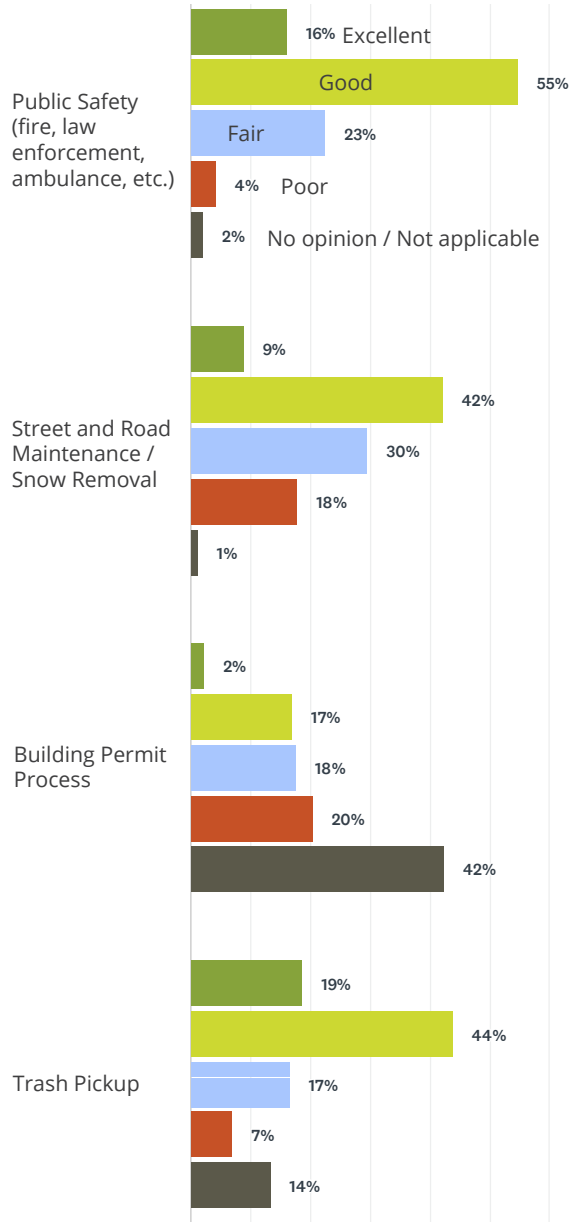
Utilities were rated fairly positively, with 67% of respondents rating them as "Excellent" or "Good," and the ratings were consistent across the three respondent groups. However, it's worth noting that "Lack of Adequate Infrastructure" was identified as one of the top challenges to future quality of life in Boone County, as indicated in responses to question 9.

Mixed Experience with Building Permits

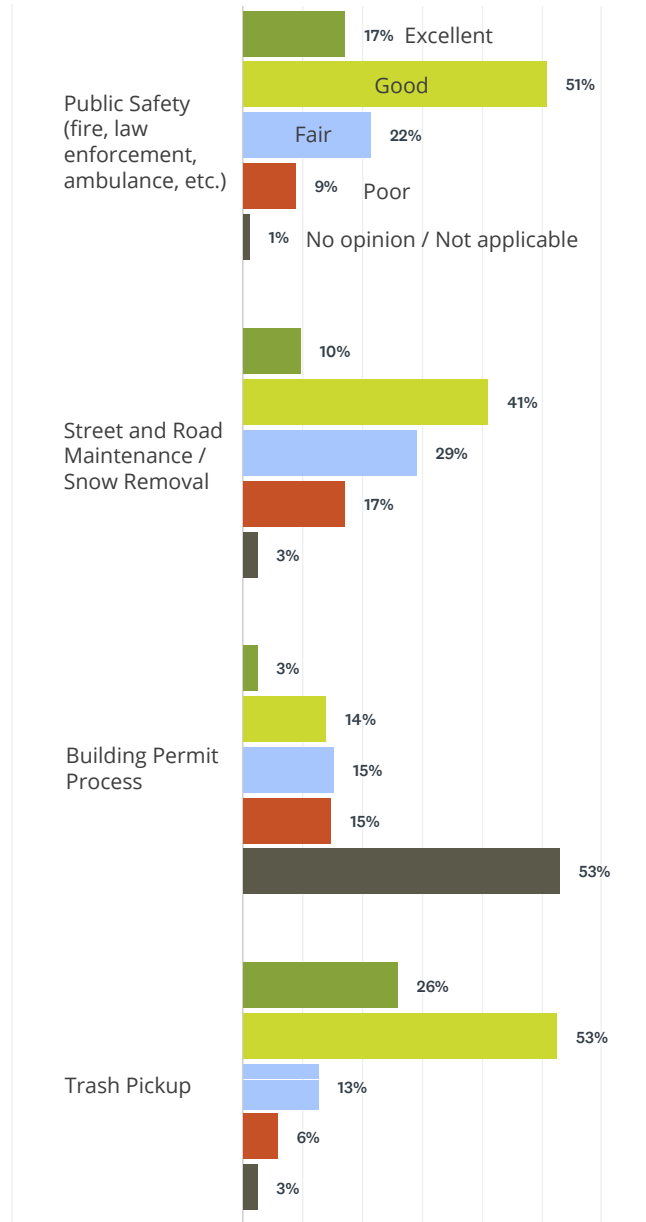
While the most common response for rating the building permit process was "No opinion / Not applicable," among those who did offer opinions, there was an approximately even split between those who ranked it positively ("Excellent" or "Good") and those who ranked it negatively ("Poor").

In-Progress

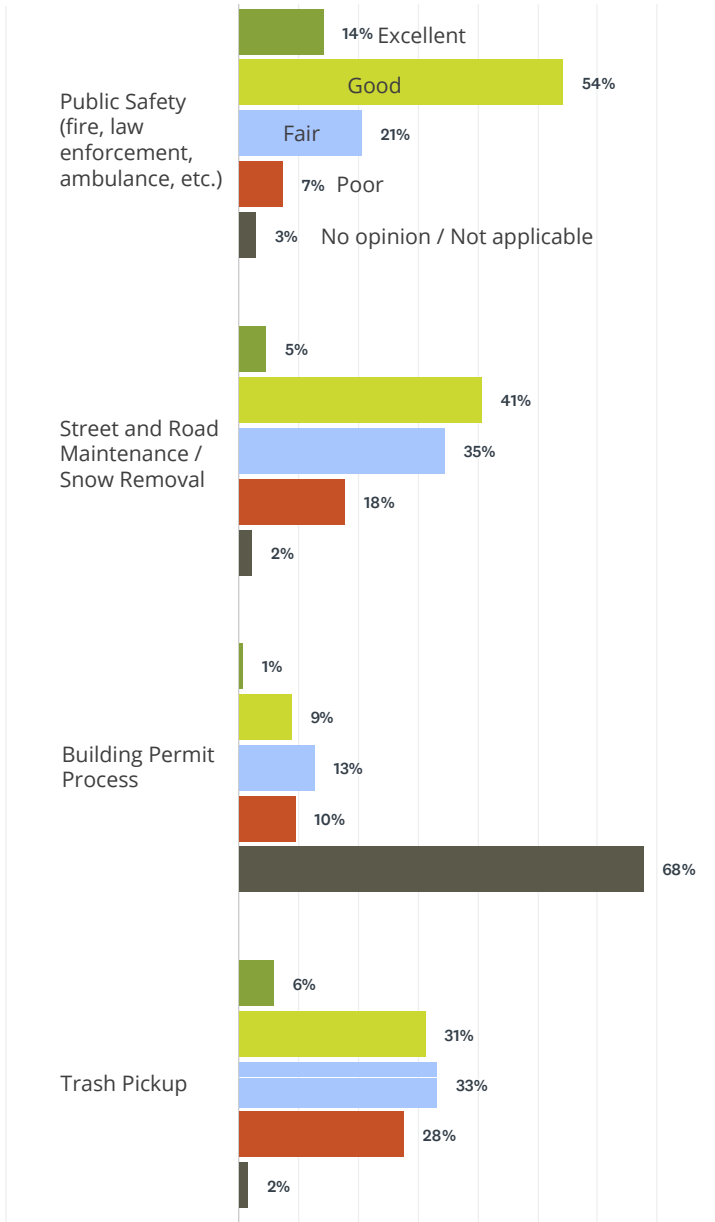
Q23. How would you rate the following community services and facilities for your home or immediate community (in terms of quality, proximity, availability, etc.)? 1 of 2



Unincorporated Residents



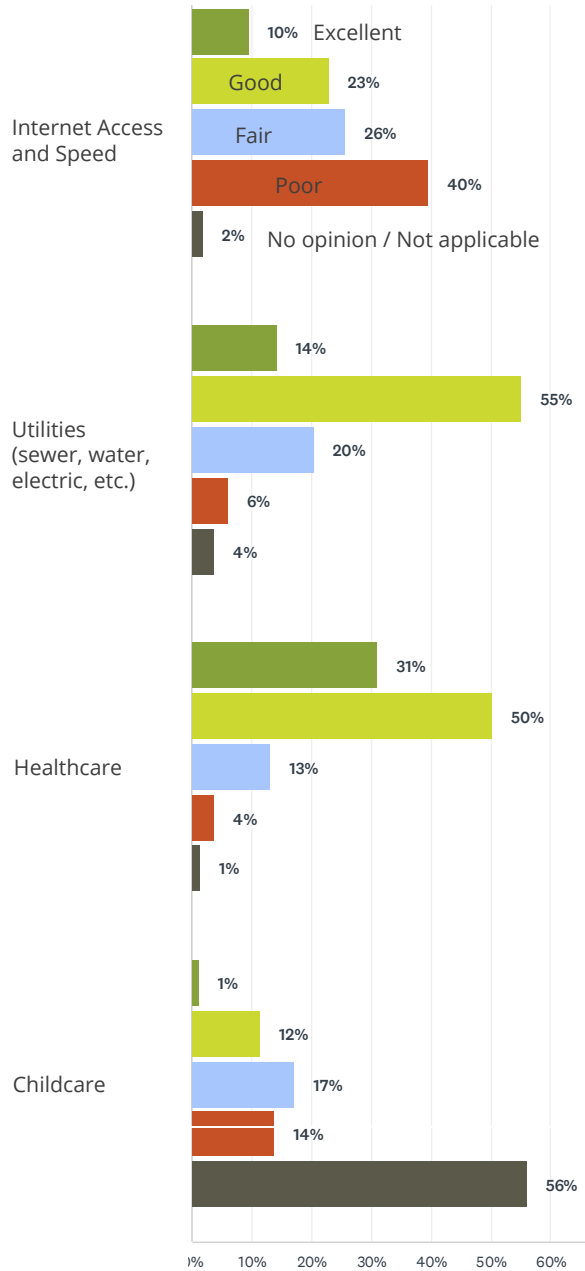
**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**



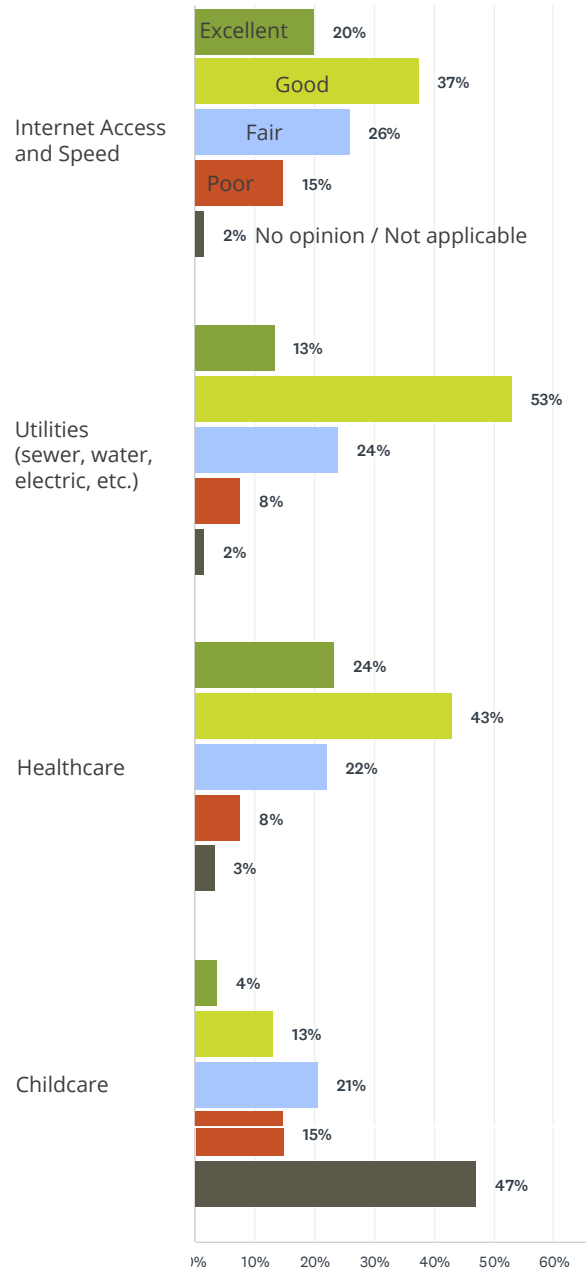
Columbia Residents

In-Progress

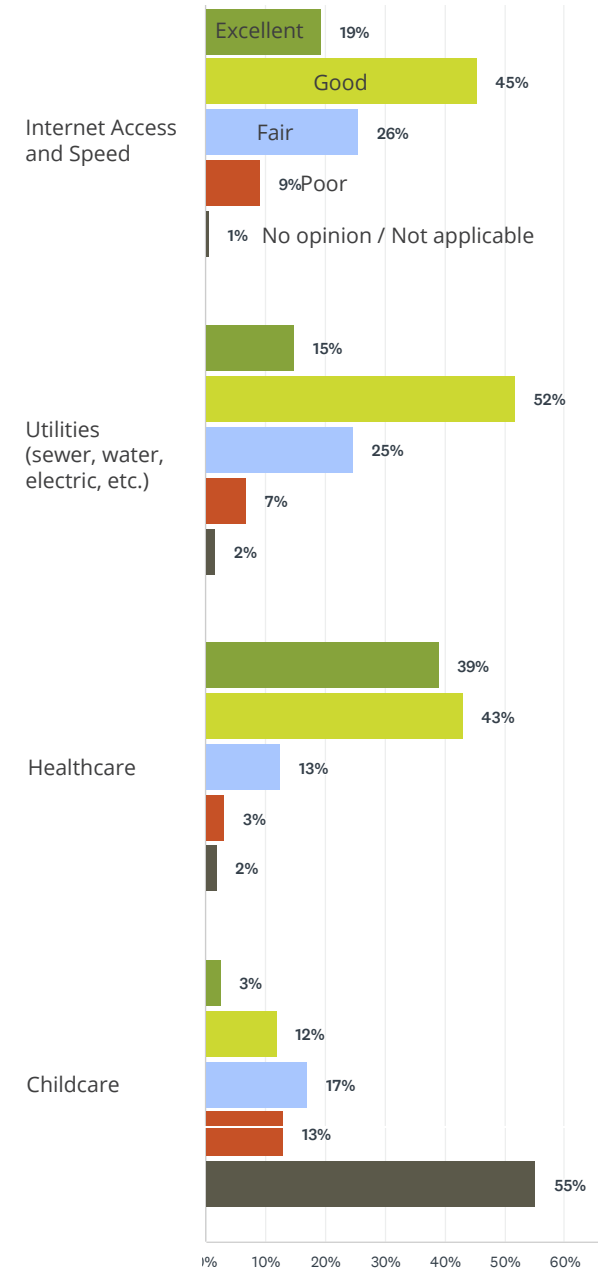
Q23. How would you rate the following community services and facilities for your home or immediate community (in terms of quality, proximity, availability, etc.)? 2 of 2



Unincorporated Residents



**Small Town Residents
(All cities except for Columbia)**



Columbia Residents

Q24. Are there any other comments you would like to share with the planning team about the Boone County Master Plan?

Approximately one-quarter of respondents contributed additional comments, reflecting the high level of interest residents have in this planning process and the future of Boone County. The quantity and quality of these comments underscore the engagement and concern of the residents. Below are highlights from these responses. Readers of this report are strongly encouraged to refer to the appendix to review all the comments provided.

Unincorporated Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important survey!"

"Boone County should continue to grow but the roads need to be better. Internet service to rural areas needs to improve. Boone County is a great place to live and we hope this continues."

"Please address the gravel county roads high traveled roads to asphalt."

"Keeping the beauty of Boone County and the rural life alive is important for now and the lives of those to come. IF not careful, Columbia will become another sunless metropolis. The farming aspect of life here adds another dimension to the population of "town and gown" seeing open farm land adds to a quality of life."

"I don't feel like we need a bunch of codes and laws to make our rural areas more "city like."

"Affordable housing and internet access are both critical needs."

"Find the balance between growth and preservation. Without growth, there will be no reason to preserve. Both can be done."

"This is a good step if you really are listening to the comments and opinions from everyone."

"Do not forget that Columbia is NOT the entirety of Boone County."

Small Town Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Really consider outlying cities from Columbia."

"Stop building more homes and work on the infrastructure. Highways, roads, schools, etc and more financial support for your law enforcement and fire protection."

"I'm happy to see the county doing this. These issues are big, complex, and often divisive."

"I have a feeling that all this concern is strictly relational to Columbia. Centralia, Hallsville, Ashland & Sturgeon will most likely see nothing positive from this."

"Please don't forget about the small towns in the county. I think a majority of the county focus is Columbia. This is county government, not city government."

"Road maintenance needs to be addressed."

"Needs to have a plan about homeless community."

"Columbia city limits cannot expand without budgeting for more emergency services and retaining that personnel."

"Centralia is in Boone County we pay taxes we need support."

"Our community could use an upgrade to fiber - optic cable for internet and communication."

Columbia Residents (Sample of Comments)

"Thank you for your work on this AND for the opportunity to provide input into the planning. While transportation is an important consideration for the City of Columbia, I hope the County doesn't ignore it's responsibilities/possibilities to play a role."

"I would love to see better public transit (bus system) and bike routes in Columbia."

"Our primary concerns are to protect environmentally sensitive areas, protect contiguous green space and provide parks and recreation opportunities throughout the county."

"We need to focus on preserving natural resources and ways to deal with climate change."

"Infrastructure (road care, sewage, trash, utilities) need to be a priority before anything else."

"Main concern is public safety. Roads need fixed, crimes reduced."

"Please dedicate more efforts to sustainable public infrastructure and affordable housing, it is incredibly crucial to building a strong community capable of rapid development."

"Set aside parks, green space, agriculture land, recreation land, and nature preserves everywhere."

"I-70 is past due for updating!"