

July 3rd 2024

South Milwaukee Comprehensive Survey Results

Residents would primarily prefer to find information from the City by [Email](#) or [Social Media](#).

Who took the survey?

90% of survey respondents were **Residents**, 50% have lived in SoMKE for Over 20 Years.

The **average age** of respondents is about **50 Years Old**.

89% of survey respondents were **Home Owners**, and 88% live in **Single-Family Homes**.

99% of survey respondents **spoke English**.

93% of survey respondents were **White**.

68% of survey respondents were **Women**.

Over 10% of survey respondents lived in each of these neighborhoods:

- **Blakewood Neighborhood** – 14.44%
- **Grant Park Heights Neighborhood** – 12.59%
- **Historic Lakeview Neighborhood** – 12.59%
- **M District Neighborhood** – 12.22%
- **Lakeview Neighborhood** – 11.48%

What did they Say?

Quality of Life

The consensus is that life in South Milwaukee is **Good**, followed by **OK**. Most of the residents in the city chose to live here because it was **near friends and family** or they were **born and raised here**. Also, there are a high number of respondents who chose to live in South Milwaukee because of its **safety**, and abundance of **natural beauty**.

The main values of residents are **quiet neighborhoods**, access to **parks and parkways** and; primarily, **low crime**. When asked what they'd like to see improved in South Milwaukee, some of the most common responses are as follows:

#1. **Crime Rate**

#2. **Streets & Traffic Safety**

#3. **Parks, Community Centers, & Community Events**

#4. **Property Maintenance**

Parks, Recreation, and Environment

Survey respondents strongly wish for a **swimming pool or splash pad** in South Milwaukee. There was also a strong desire for more **community events and programs**, and although there is a lack

of specificity of what kind of events and programs, respondents expressed desire for programs aimed at kids, adults, and seniors.

The two most important natural resources for the respondents were **Parks and Open Spaces**, and the **Lake Michigan Coastline**. An overwhelming majority of respondents (85%) said that programs, policies, and projects that reduce the negative impact on the environment is important or very important.

On improving access to Lake Michigan, the number one response was to improve various things in Grant Park, the City's existing access to the Lake. Primarily, the respondents desired **better roads**, **more parking**, and better **pedestrian access** throughout Grant Park. They also identified the **Everbrite Site** as the most obvious location for new lake access.

Housing

The majority of respondents indicated they were confused on the status of housing in South Milwaukee. Otherwise, the top three desired housing types are **Single-Family** homes, **Affordable** housing, and owner-occupied **Condos**.

44% of respondents reported that property maintenance in the City was **Well Maintained**, while **42%** reported that it was only **Somewhat Maintained**.

Land Use

Out of the uses presented to the respondents, the following are uses they would like to see;

More of in the City:

- Cafes and Coffee Shops
- Community Centers
- Daycare / Childcare Centers
- Entertainment and Attractions
- Fast Casual Restaurants
- Fresh Food Markets / Grocery Stores
- Industrial & Manufacturing Businesses
- Medical Services & Clinics
- Neighborhood Grocers
- Sit-Down & Family Restaurants
- Specialty & Boutique Shopping / Retail

Fewer of in the City:

- Bars / Taverns / Clubs
- Discount / Dollar Stores
- Fast Food Restaurants
- Liquor Stores

No Change of in the City:

- Churches / Religious Facilities
- Gas Stations & Convenience Stores
- Offices, Banks & Financial Institutions

The following uses had **Mixed opinions**:

- “Big Box” Retail & Department Stores
- Hotels / Motels

Transportation

The majority of respondents **Drive Alone**, about 94% in all. The next most used methods of transportation are **Walk or Wheelchair** (18%) and **Bike** (11%). Note that respondents were asked to select up to two. Suggestions to improve transportation methods included the following:

#1. **Safer Streets** – including sidewalks, and bike lanes.

#2. **Regional Transport** – including quick and easy bus routes into Milwaukee.

#3. **Better Traffic Enforcement**

37% of respondents were **Aware** of the potential Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail line. Only **29%** of respondents claimed they would **Never** use the rail line, while every other respondent indicated they would use it at varying frequencies. Anticipated use ranged primarily from **Once or Twice a Year** to **Once or Twice a Month**, with 58% of respondents in that range. About 7% believed they would use the line at least a few times a week.

Economic Development

In the respondents' opinions, the priority of the City in economic development should be **Coordination Efforts to Actively Recruit New Business & Industry**. Secondly, the City should focus on **Enforcing Code Violations** on properties, and even consider **Purchasing Dilapidated Properties for Redevelopment**.