



John S. Nader,
Mayor

City of Oneonta
Comprehensive Plan

Community Survey Summary
July 2006

CPA
CLARK PATTERSON ASSOCIATES
382 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
www.clarkpatterson.com



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Introduction

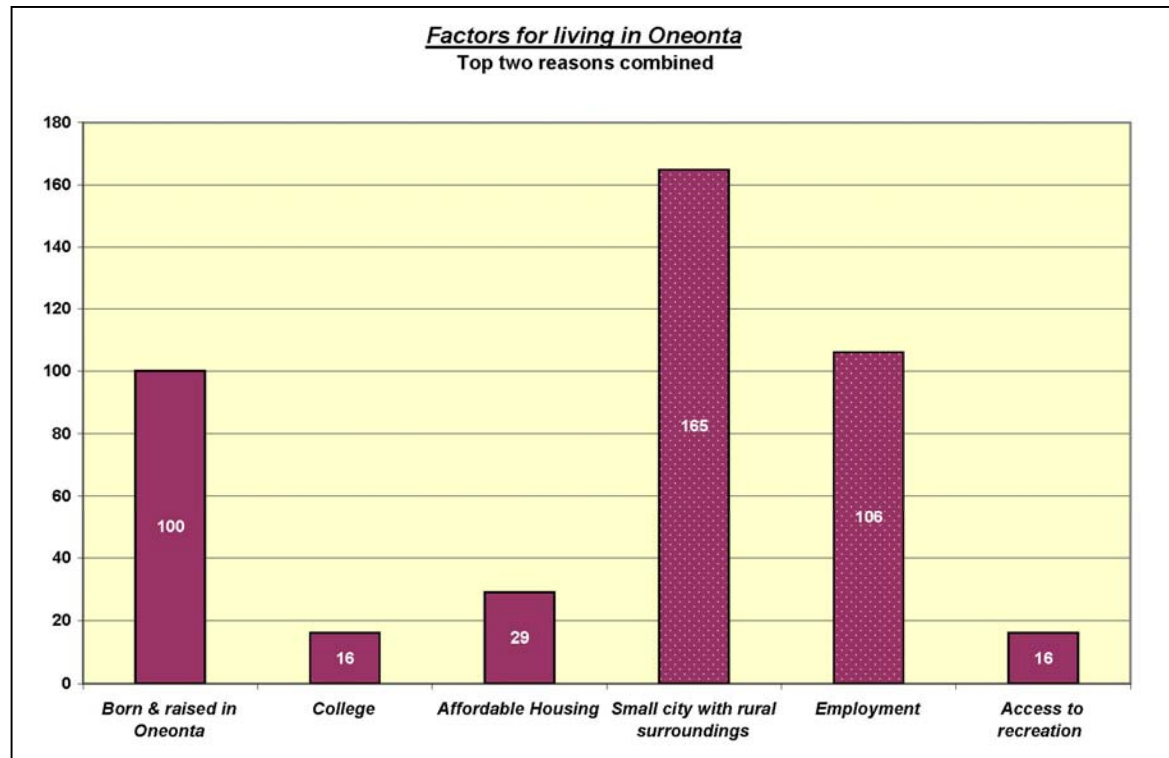
In May 2006, the City of Oneonta conducted a community survey to obtain input on a wide range of issues. The survey is one way the City solicited community involvement in determining the focus and direction of the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The survey included a range of questions that addressed community values, priorities, and needs, as well as demographic and economic information. The City of Oneonta randomly distributed 750 surveys to homeowners and renters. Reflecting the ratio of owner-occupied units to rental units in the city, 488 surveys were sent to non-rental addresses while 262 were sent to rental addresses. A second survey targeting the student population will be conducted in September. By the established return deadline, 257 surveys were returned for a response rate of 34 percent. It should be noted that the findings of the survey may be skewed toward the opinions of city homeowners. Of the responses received, 86 percent were homeowners and 14 percent were renters. This varies considerably from the breakdown among the city's population, which was 43 percent homeowners and 57 percent renters according to latest census figures.

The following report summarizes the results from the 2006 City of Oneonta Community Survey. Though a majority of the surveys returned were fully completed, several were partially completed. Therefore, the number of responses may vary for some questions. A copy of the survey is appended to this report.



Part I – Community Values and Priorities

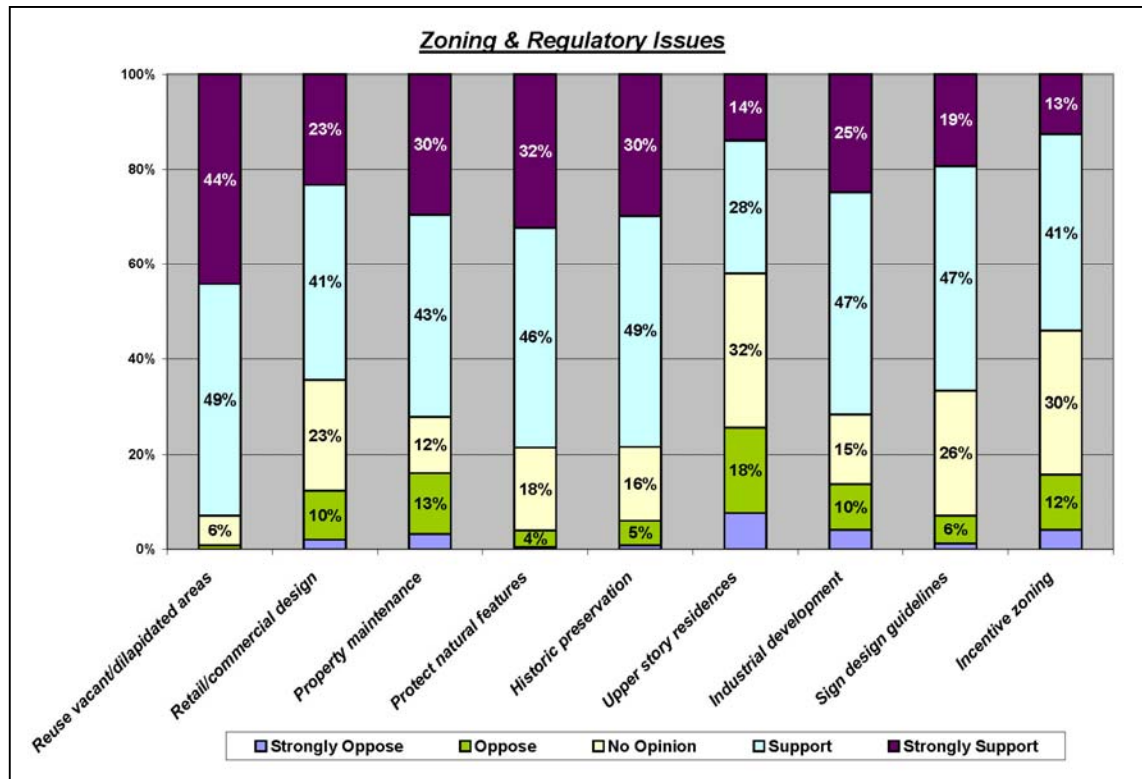


Question A

Respondents were asked to provide their top two reasons for living in Oneonta. The largest number of respondents indicated they lived in Oneonta because it's a small city with rural surroundings. The two other most selected factors were proximity to employment and the fact that the respondents were born and raised in the area. Approximately 16 percent of respondents indicated other reasons than those provided on the survey. Of those other responses, Oneonta's schools, a great place to raise children, and the proximity to friends and family were the most common.



Part I – Community Values and Priorities



Question B

This question related to zoning and regulatory issues such as land preservation, property/building reuse, maintenance and development. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they strongly opposed, opposed, had no opinion, supported or strongly supported each statement provided. Encouraging the reuse/redevelopment of vacant and dilapidated urban areas was the issue that respondents most supported, with 93 percent support or strong support. Protection of natural features and historic preservation were also supported or strongly supported among residents, with 78 percent and 79 percent, respectively. Encouraging upper story residences downtown garnered the lowest combined support/strong support at 42 percent. In addition, this issue and incentive zoning had the highest percentage of respondents indicating they had no opinion, which could be an opportunity for a more focused discussion on these issues and how they relate to future City development.



Part I – Community Values and Priorities

Actions/Services	Supported Tax Increase				Responses with tax increase *	Total # of Responses
	0-2%	2-5%	5-7%	7-9%		
Retail/Commercial Development	58%	30%	9%	2%	161	180
Light Industrial Development	66%	21%	7%	6%	125	140
Access to river	68%	20%	8%	4%	90	99
Commercial area appearance	75%	17%	5%	4%	108	120
Recreational facilities	67%	25%	4%	3%	67	70
Housing conditions	66%	20%	6%	8%	112	130
Historic preservation	55%	29%	6%	9%	110	124
Add'l subsidized housing	55%	28%	11%	6%	65	75
Improved water	52%	32%	8%	8%	87	96
Improved sewer	50%	33%	14%	4%	80	86
Senior housing	43%	33%	14%	9%	120	136
Add'l off campus housing	71%	18%	11%	0%	28	30
Improve library	51%	30%	9%	10%	82	90

**Not every respondent indicated a supported tax increase. For example, 180 people indicated retail and commercial development was a priority, but 19 of those responses did not check a specific increase.*

Question C

This question gauged respondents support for actions and services as well as their threshold for tax increases to provide such services. In addition to identifying community priorities, this question attempted to help determine the extent to which people would support these issues financially. Generally speaking, the issues identified as priorities were also ones for which respondents identified some level of tax support. Attraction of additional retail and commercial development in the city was the most commonly selected item. Other key issues and needs included attracting additional light industrial development, providing senior housing, improving the condition of housing conditions, and preserving historic buildings and sites.

The extent and level of tax increases that would be supported varied for each topic addressed in this portion of the survey. A majority of respondents that indicated a specific level of tax support selected the lowest tax increase range (0-2 percent) across all of the topics. Retail/Commercial development, senior housing and historic preservation were issues that had the highest support in the 2-5 percent range. This may provide some indication that these issues are of more serious concern to the respondents than some of the others, which prompted less tax increase support. Very few respondents supported tax increases more than 5 percent in any of the categories. However, those that did indicated improvements to the sewer system and improvements to library services were priorities.

Although this question does provide some indication of the community’s priorities for addressing services and needs, it does not definitively outline which issues people would support financially. Further analysis of this topic will be needed to accurately determine the scale of economic support for future services and development.



Part I—Community Values and Priorities

Respondents rated a variety of issues on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most desirable and 1 being not desirable at all. The ratings provided in the survey for each issue were averaged to develop a mean rating.

Transportation	Avg Rating
<i>More trails</i>	3.4
<i>Slow traffic, ped safety</i>	3.3
<i>Expand transit service</i>	3.1

Question D—Transportation

Additional hiking and biking trails throughout the city received the highest score in this category with an average rating of 3.4. Slow traffic and pedestrian safety received a similar average score. Given the relatively neutral averages across this category, it is reasonable to assume that these transportation issues may not be a critical concern. However, the extent to which transportation issues need to be addressed will need to be further examined.

Environment/Appearance	Avg Rating
<i>Improve cleanliness</i>	4.0
<i>Improve park condition</i>	3.5
<i>Improve City gateways</i>	3.5
<i>Increase access to river</i>	3.1

Question E—Environment/Appearance

Improving overall cleanliness is a critical priority based on its average rating of 4.0. Improving park conditions and city gateways were also priorities with ratings of 3.5.

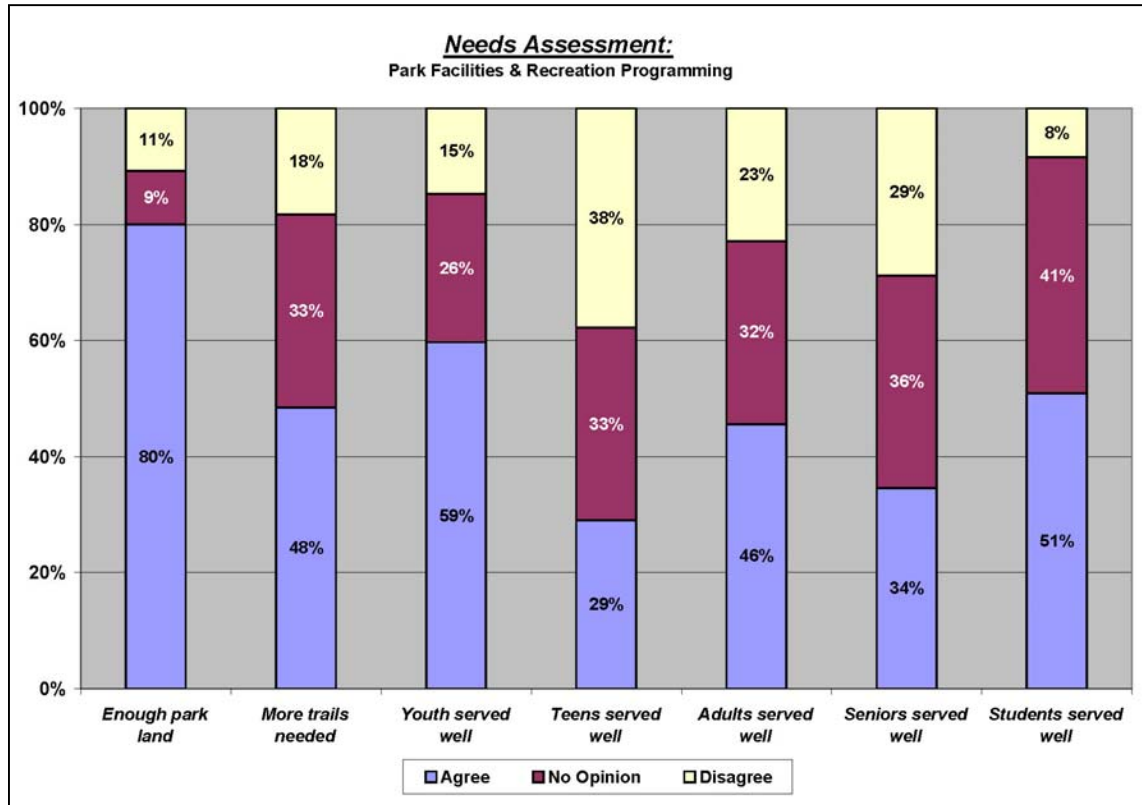
Economic Development	Avg Rating
<i>Downtown retail</i>	4.2
<i>Health-related facilities</i>	3.7
<i>Retail outside downtown</i>	3.6
<i>Arts/cultural opportunities</i>	3.5
<i>Home-based businesses</i>	3.4
<i>Industrial development</i>	3.3
<i>Tourism-related</i>	3.1
<i>Recreation-related</i>	3.1
<i>Office development</i>	3.0

Question F — Economic Development

Given a wide range of issues pertaining to economic development within the city, respondents rated more retail development downtown as the most desirable with an average score of 4.2, the highest among all issues in this section. Other economic development opportunities with the highest scores included the development of health-related facilities, additional retail outside of downtown and additional arts and cultural opportunities. Office development received the lowest average rating. This information might be helpful in determining the scope of future economic development activity.



Part II – Needs Assessment

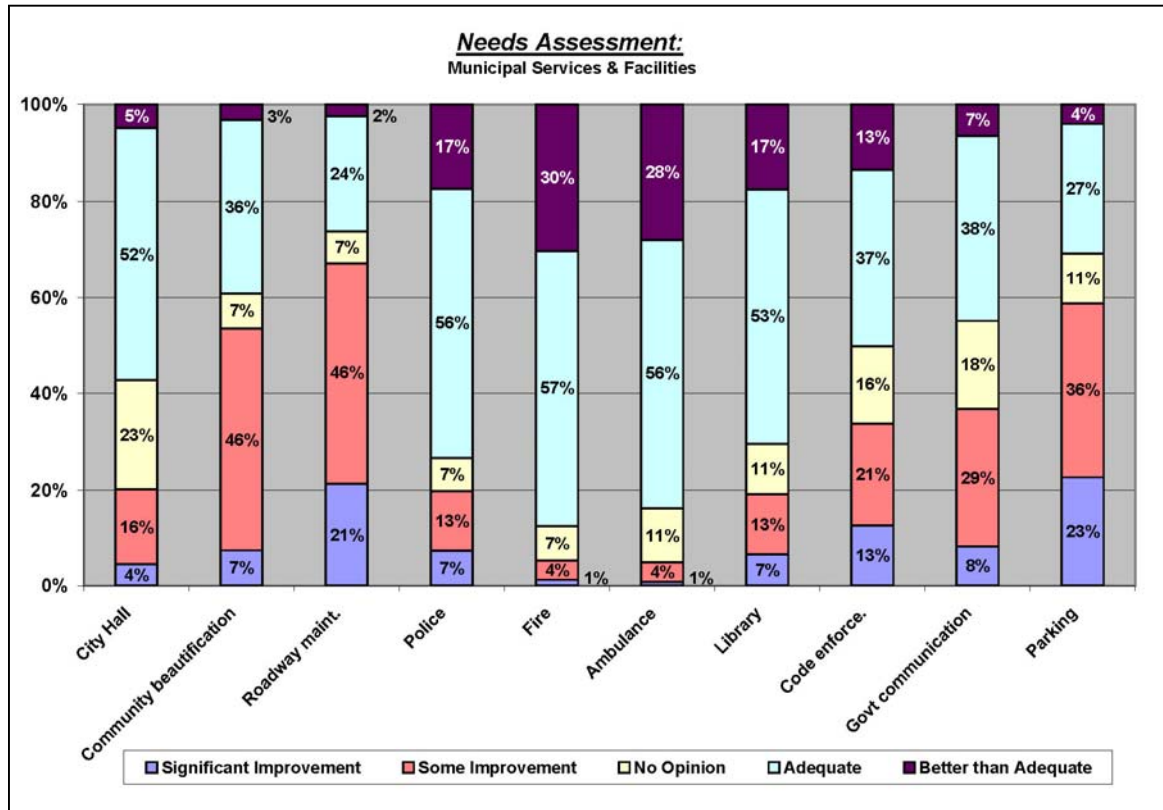


Question A

Respondents were asked to consider the sufficiency of the City’s park facilities and recreational programming. For the seven statements given, the respondents could reply with one of three answers: (1) agree, (2) no opinion, (3) disagree. With nearly 80 percent agreement, residents thought that there was adequate parkland to meet their needs in the city. Approximately 50 percent of the respondents felt that additional trails should be developed within the city. In addition, when asked whether the existing recreational programs available to certain age groups are meeting their needs, 59 and 51 percent of respondents felt youth and college students were served well. Thirty-eight percent do not think that teens are served well and 29 percent indicated seniors’ recreational needs are also not served well. These two groups may need additional attention regarding recreational opportunities to address more specific needs as indicated by the survey respondents.



Part II—Needs Assessment

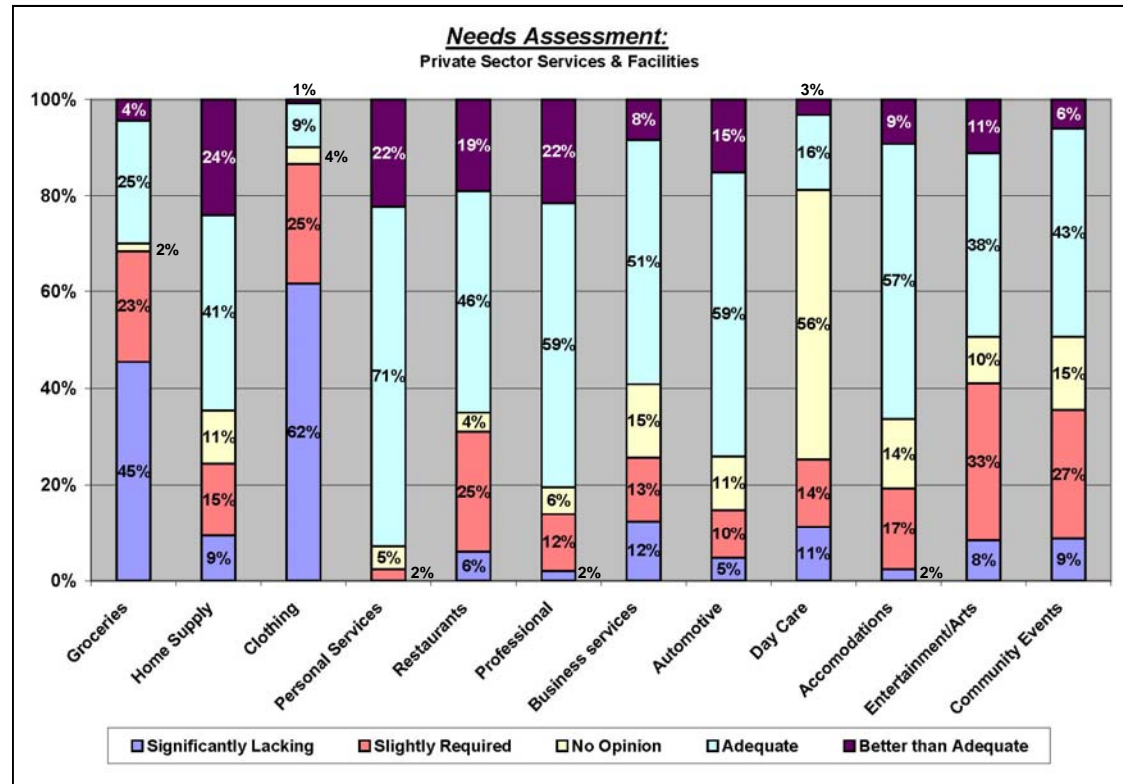


Question B

Respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of municipal services with the following statement: needs significant or some improvement, no opinion, adequate or better than adequate. Twenty-one percent of the respondents indicated that roadway maintenance needed significant improvement, while 46 percent responded that some improvement was required. More than 50 percent of the respondents also indicated that parking and community beautification also needed some or significant improvement with 23 percent suggesting significant improvements to be made to parking facilities. A large majority of respondents indicated that police, fire and ambulance protection and the library system were adequate or better than adequate. Code enforcement and communication from the local government were split almost evenly, possibly indicating a need for internal review and improvement.



Part II – Needs Assessment

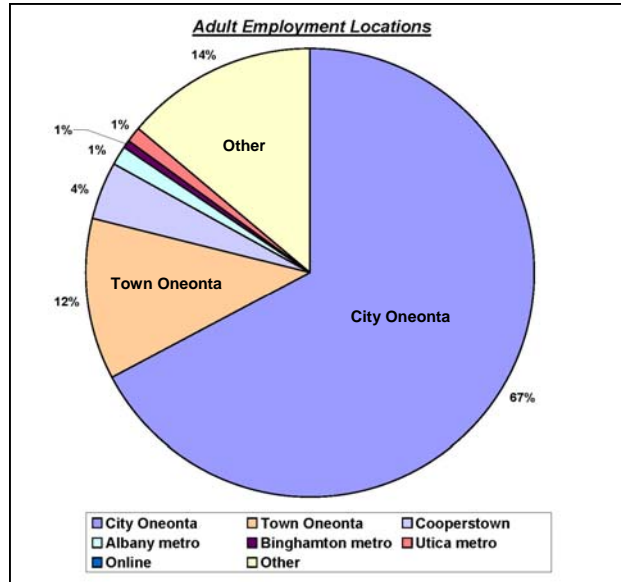


Question C

Respondents were asked to determine the adequacy of private sector services and facilities using the same rating system as question B. The private services and facilities in this section are everyday services such as grocery stores, home supply stores, restaurants, entertainment, automotive services, and personal services such as banking or insurance. A large majority of respondents indicated that grocery stores (23 and 45 percent, respectively) and clothing stores (25 and 62 percent, respectively) were slightly or significantly lacking. The adequacy of day care is uncertain with more than half of the respondents indicating no opinion. Based on the survey, these may need special attention in future economic and service development activities within the city. Most other categories were rated as adequate or better than adequate by a large majority, with the exception of arts and entertainment and community events, which were almost spilt evenly.



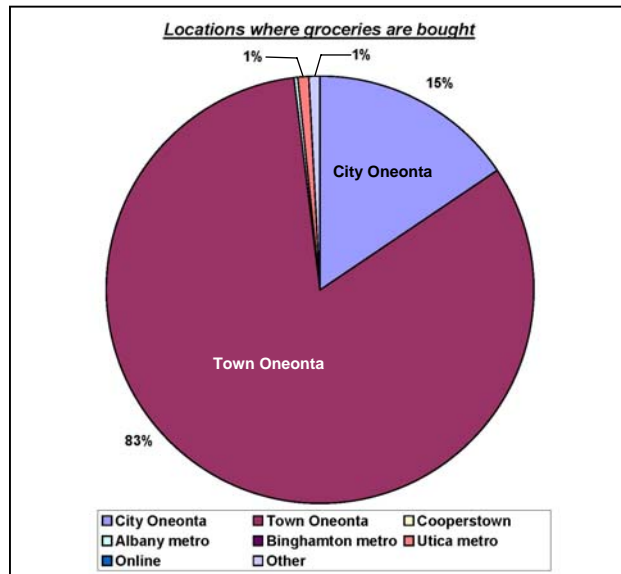
Part III – Household Shopping and Travel Patterns



Part III asked respondents to indicate their household travel and shopping patterns. A number of possible locations for employment, shopping and medical services were listed.

Question A

Adult respondents were asked to provide their location for employment outside the home. About 79 percent of adults worked within Otsego County, with 67 percent of those working in the City of Oneonta. Fourteen percent of adults worked in various other locations such as Sidney, Delhi, Hobart, Cobleskill, Franklin, Norwich, and other communities in adjacent counties.

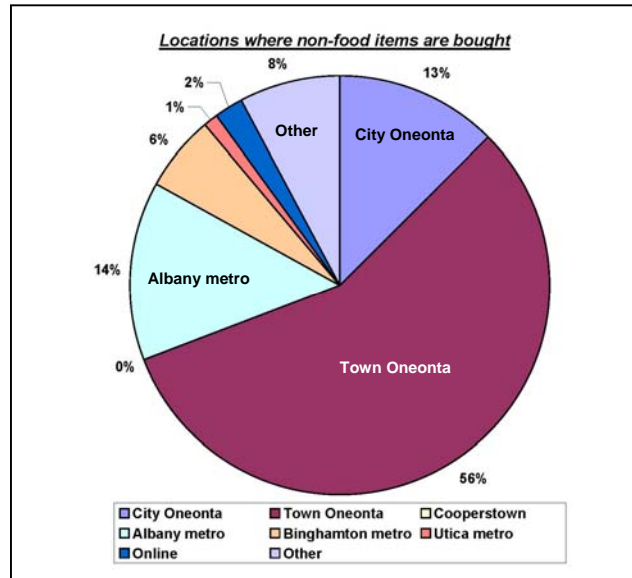


Question B

Question B asked where households spent a majority of their income for food eaten at home. Only 15 percent of the households purchased food within the City of Oneonta, while 83 percent went to the town, most likely in the Southside commercial area. The response to this question is consistent with the previous section of the survey indicating a need for grocers in the city. One percent or less of the respondents traveled outside of Oneonta for groceries. There may be an opportunity for additional analysis or to assess the feasibility for grocery stores or similar types of commercial development within the city based on these responses. The city last had a major grocery store in 2003. It is possible that over time, the absence of a store in the city may generate enough demand that a new store could receive sufficient support.

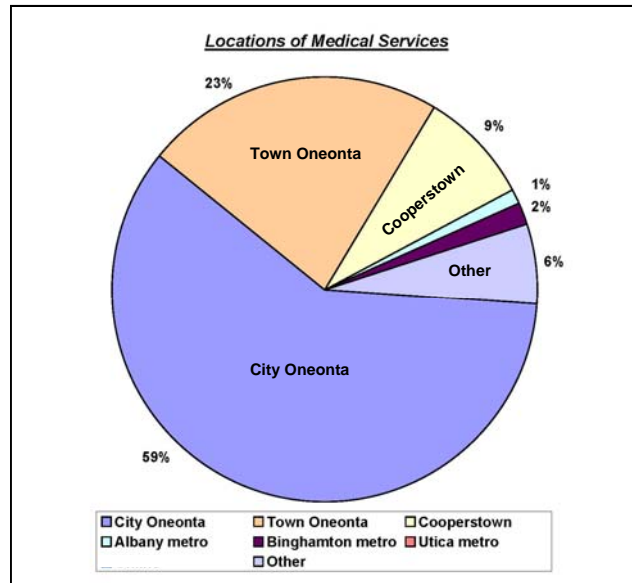


Part III – Household Shopping and Travel Patterns



Question C

Similar to question B, a majority of the non-food items, such as health and beauty products, household supplies and clothing, were purchased in the Town of Oneonta. Twenty-one percent of the respondents purchase these same items in places outside of Oneonta such as Cooperstown, Albany, and Binghamton. Only 13 percent of the community indicated they bought non-food items within the City of Oneonta.



Question D

A majority of the respondents (59 percent) stated they obtain most of their required medical services within the city. A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital and Bassett Healthcare are the two primary medical facilities in the region and are located in downtown Oneonta. Less than 25 percent of the respondents obtained services in the town, while 12 percent traveled outside of the area. The six percent of those that received medical services elsewhere went to a combination of locations.

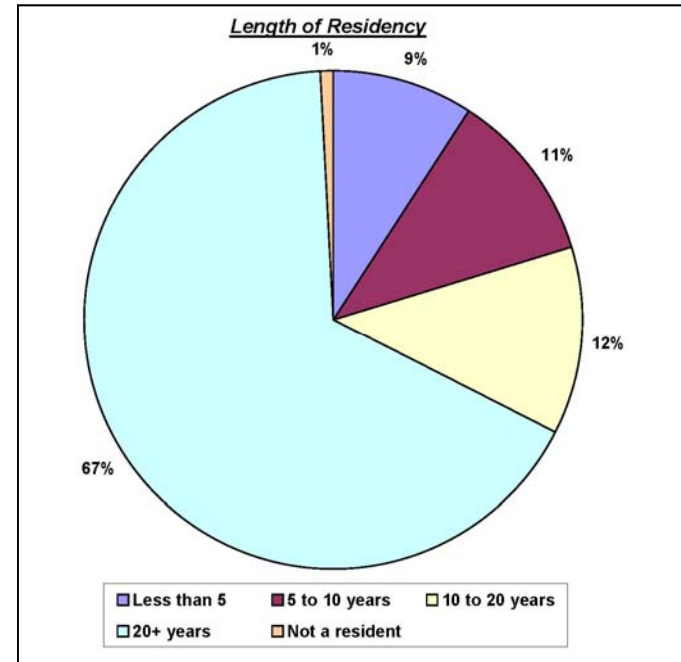


Part IV – Respondent Information

Part IV provides information on the characteristics and demographics of the individuals that completed the survey.

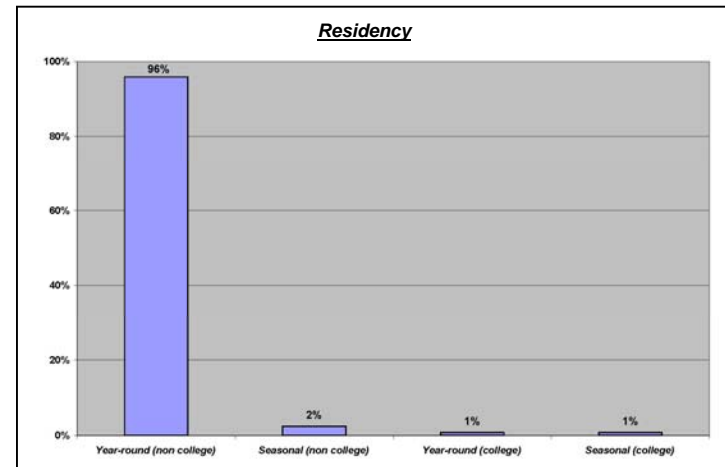
Question A

The length of time one lives in a community can provide insight to how the area has changed over time. More than two-thirds of the respondents stated that they had lived in Oneonta for more than 20 years. The remaining respondents were evenly divided among the other lengths of residency categories. Only one percent stated that they were not residents of Oneonta.



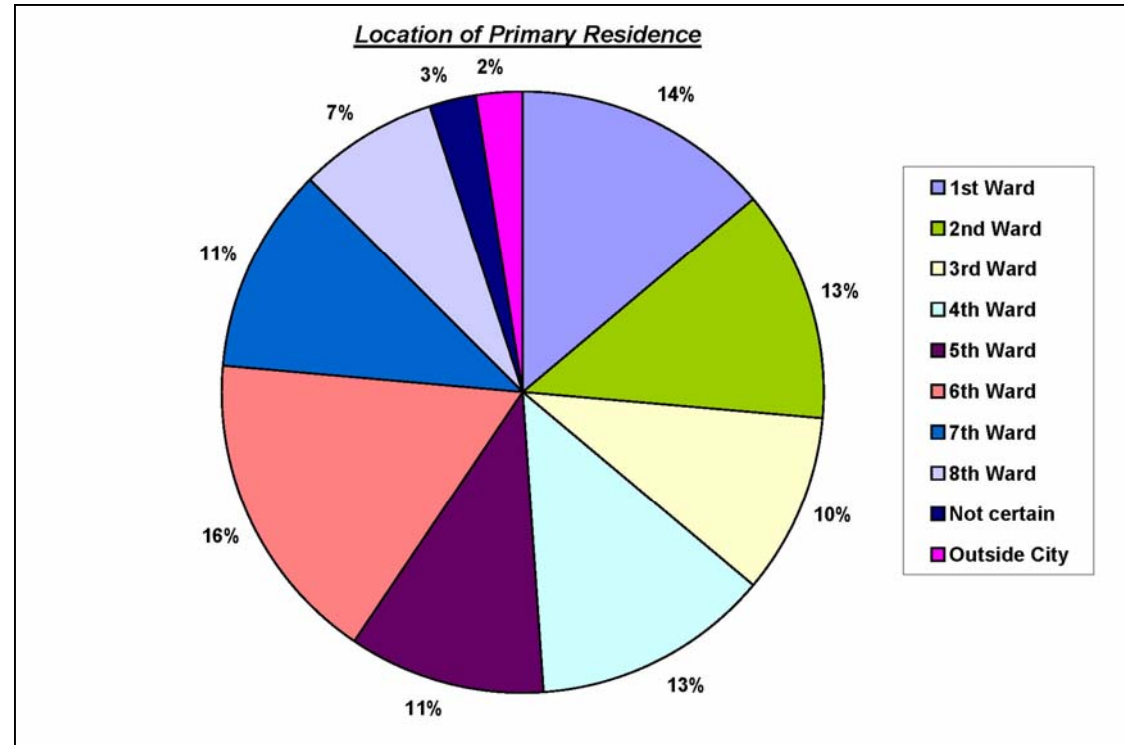
Question B

Question B inquired whether the respondent is a year round resident or seasonal. Since the City of Oneonta is home to two large colleges, SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College, this question also asks respondents who are college students their residency status as well. Ninety-six percent of respondents indicated they were year-round, non-college student residents. Of the seasonal residents, the average length of residency was five months. The survey does not reflect the views of local college students who will be represented in a separate survey administered jointly by Hartwick College and SUNY Oneonta in fall 2006.





Part IV – Respondent Information

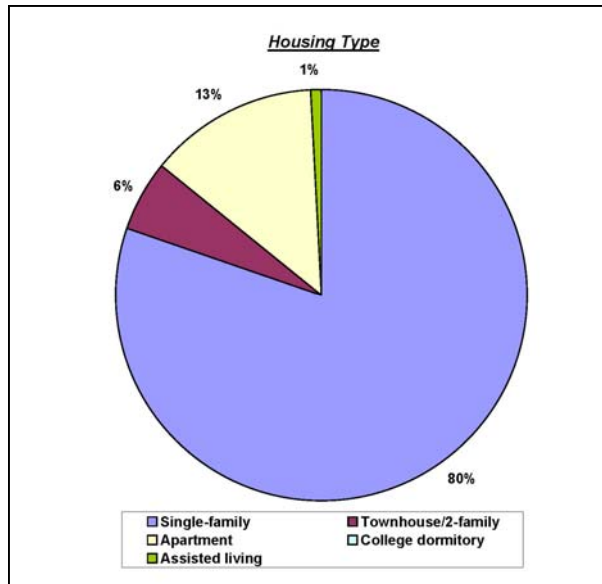


Question C

The City of Oneonta consists of eight wards. As seen in the graphic above, each ward of the City was represented, with Ward 6 having the largest representation of those identified. Three percent of those who responded to this question were uncertain which ward they lived in. Two percent of those who responded were from outside the city limits.

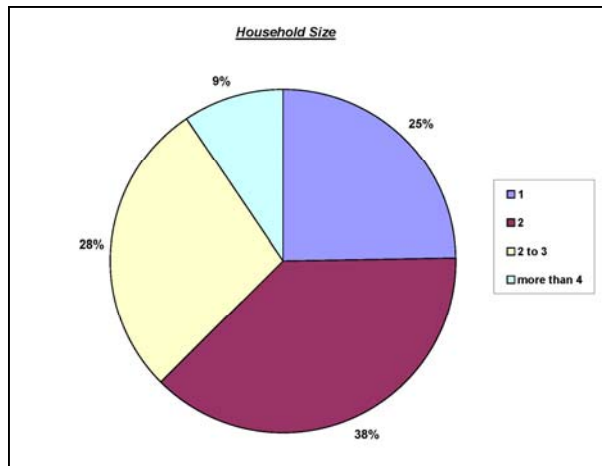


Part IV – Respondent Information



Question D

When asked what type of housing unit they lived in, 80 percent of the respondents stated they lived in a single-family home. Those who resided in an apartment accounted for 13 percent, while six percent lived in a townhouse or three-family home. Although this question does not indicate the amount of homeowners and renters, the best comparison to the overall population of the city is the 2000 U.S. Census housing tenure. The Census reported the overall population consisted of 43 percent homeowners and 57 percent renters. When compared with the survey results shown, the combined total of those considered homeowners had a higher percentage, even though they consisted of less than half the actual population.

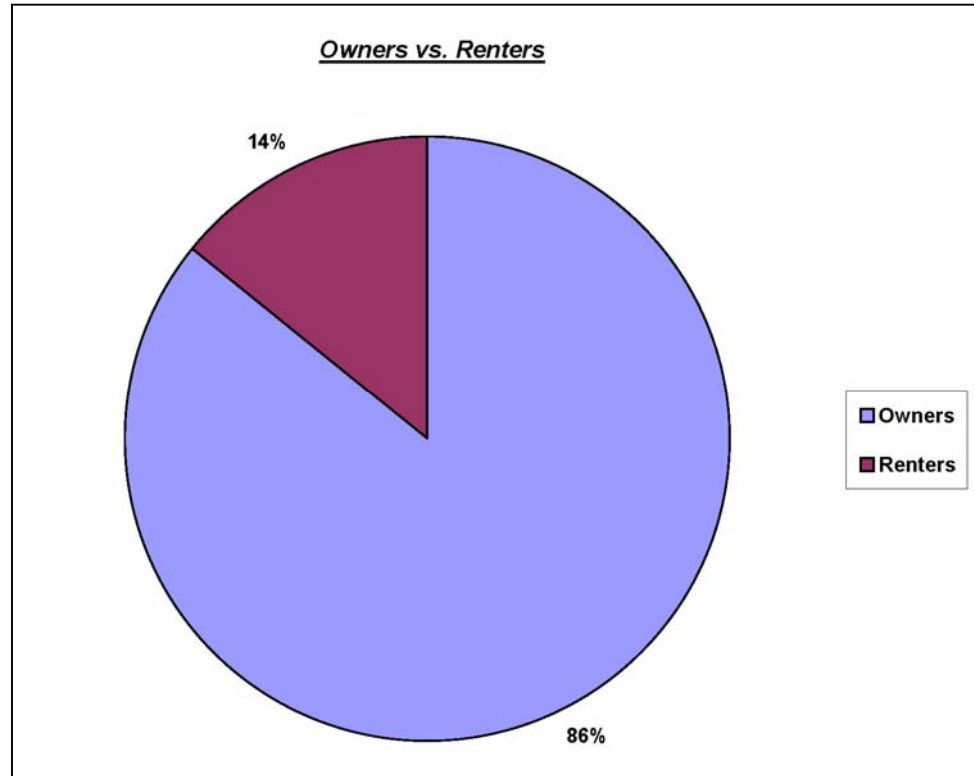


Question E

Based on the results shown, 25 percent of the survey respondents live alone and 28 percent live in a household of 3 to 4 people. Two-person households accounted for 38 percent of the respondents. Considering respondents breakdown by age, provided on page 15, it is reasonable to assume that many of these two-person households are adults with no children or empty nesters.



Part IV – Respondent Information



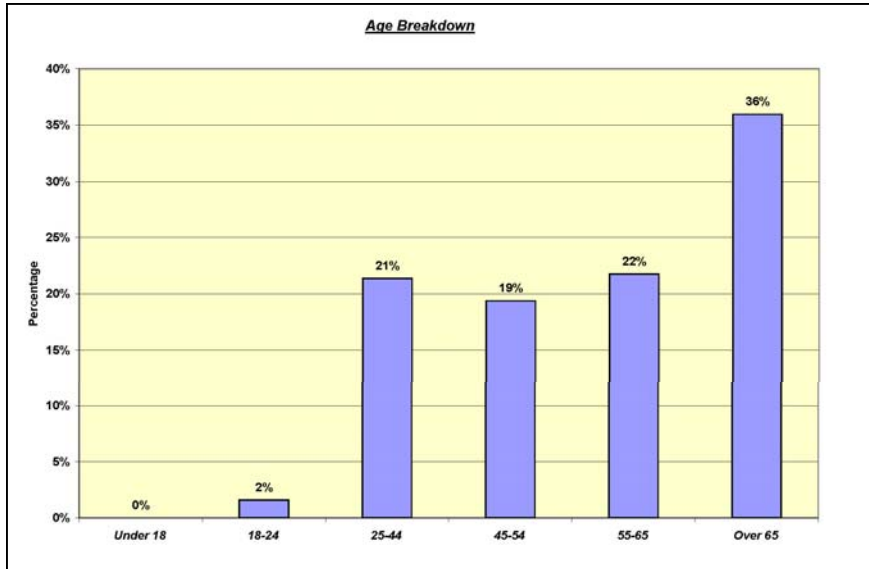
Question F & G

A large majority of survey respondents, 86 percent, stated they owned their own house. Renters consisted of 14 percent of the survey responses. In comparison with 2000 Census overall population figures of homeowners and renters, 43 percent and 57 percent respectively. Given the difference in breakdown, it is possible that renters' views may not be adequately represented in these results. However, the lower response rate from renters may in some ways reflect their willingness to participate in these types of community initiatives.

In addition to indicating their ownership, respondents were also asked in question G whether they owned additional rental properties in the city. Only 11 percent indicated they owned additional rental property.



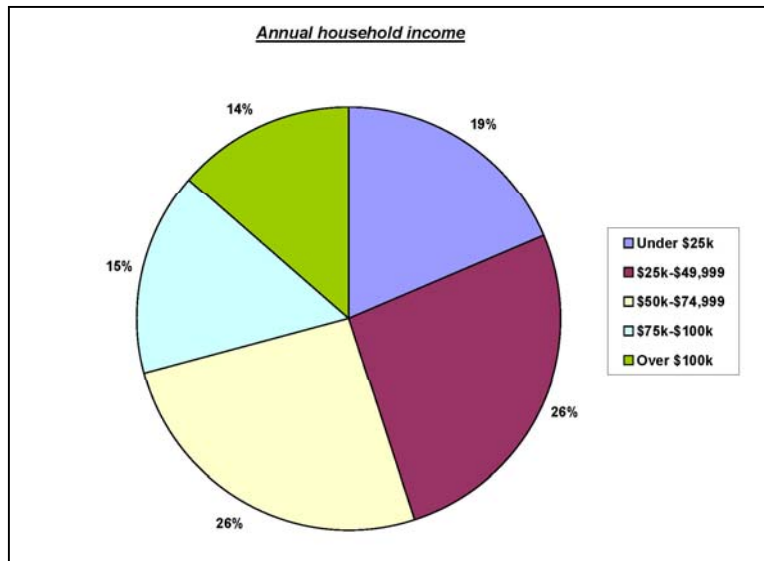
Part IV – Respondent Information



Question H

A majority of the respondents were 55 and over (57.7 percent). People in the 25 to 44 and 45 to 54 age ranges combined to represent 40 percent of the respondents. Very few college-aged respondents completed the survey (1.6 percent), which reflects the timing of the survey. There was no one under age 18 that responded.

The age breakdown of respondents does not align closely with the city's population in certain age groups. Based on Census 2000 figures, 43.2 percent of the city's population is comprised of 18-24 year olds. This age cohort was significantly underrepresented in this survey. However, this is primarily due to the fact that the surveys were addressed to the heads of households. Although the 65 and older cohort makes up 11.9 percent of the city's population, this age group accounted for 36 percent of this survey.



Question I

Of those who provided their income range, 52 percent of the household incomes were between \$25,000 and \$74,999. The remaining respondent incomes were relatively evenly divided, with households over \$100,000 accounting for the smallest percentage (14 percent). Adjusted for inflation to 2005, the median household income according to the 2000 Census is approximately \$27,000. A large majority of respondents indicated their household income near or above the median income for city residents.



Part IV – Respondent Information

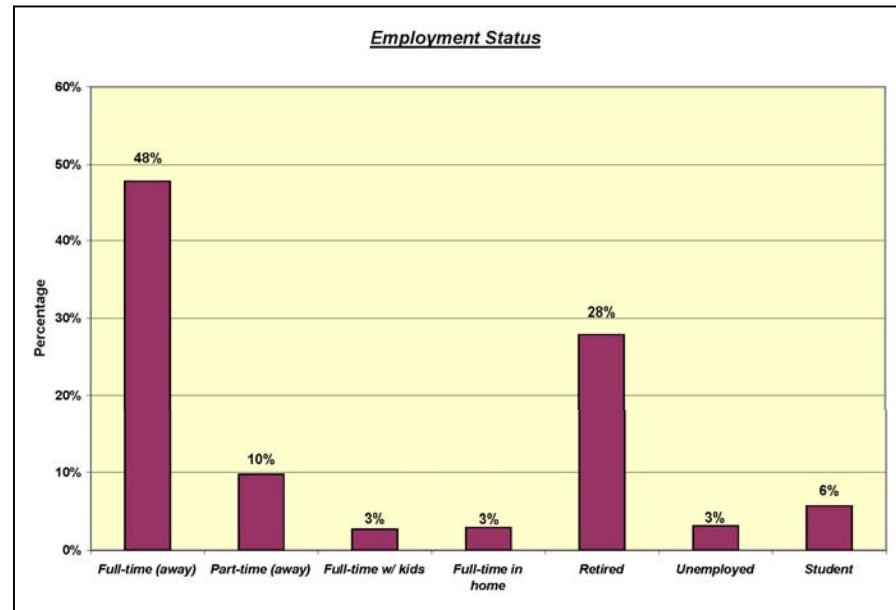
Question J

Among the people living in each household, respondents were asked to indicate the number of people in each age category. As shown in the italicized example, 12 percent of all respondents, or 28 people, indicated they had one child between ages five and 17. Fifty-seven percent of the households had two adults, while only 25 percent had one adult. Of those that indicated they had children between ages five and 17, approximately 25 percent stated they had one or two children. Only six percent of respondents had one child under age 5. Based on the respondents reported ages, it is likely that a majority of those responding to the survey are couples with no children or empty nesters.

Age Group	Number of People - percentage and (raw number)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Adults (18+)	25% (57)	57% (132)	13% (30)	13% (10)	0% (1)
Children (5-17)	12% (28)	13% (29)	3% (6)	1% (3)	0% (0)
Pre-school (under 5)	6% (13)	2% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)

Question K

Respondents were asked to provide employment status for all adults in the household age 18 or older. Approximately 48 percent of the respondents indicated they worked full-time outside of their residence. Twenty-eight percent are retired. Part-time employees comprised 10 percent, while only six percent were students.





Part V – General Comments and Feedback (overview)

The last section of the survey consisted of three open ended questions that provided the respondents a chance to express their opinions of the city in their own words. The first question is similar in nature to question A in part I; “what do you like most about living in the City of Oneonta?”. The last two questions asked the respondent about their future vision for the community, both what should remain the same and what should change or needs the most improvement.

The chart below summarizes the top ten most common answers from each question. Most respondents had similar comments for each question; compiled answers are appended to the end of this report.

<u>Question A</u>	<u>Question B</u>	<u>Question C</u>
<p><i>“What do you like most about living in the City of Oneonta?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean • Safe • Size, “small town atmosphere” • Accessible • Country surroundings • Cultural and social events • Parks • Schools (public and colleges) • Friendly people • Family friendly 	<p><i>“In the future, what would you like to stay the same in the City of Oneonta?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town appearance • Cultural activities • Parks • Recreation activities • Natural areas • Schools • Medical • Friendliness • Low traffic • City size 	<p><i>“In the future, what would you like to see change in the City of Oneonta?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more college housing • Adult oriented retail/stores on Main St • Better code enforcement • Control student behaviors • Grocery store downtown • Activities for teens • Trails/paths to river & thru city • Increase police patrol • No more tax increases • More family housing (less rentals)



Conclusion

There were a number of topics that consistently surfaced throughout the survey responses. The need to revive Main Street in downtown Oneonta was the most prominent. As seen in the general comments and in some of the earlier questions, a wider variety of retail shops, including clothing stores and other general merchandise stores, were offered as suggestions for improving Main Street. In addition to retail improvements, the lack of a grocery store in the City was also identified as a need. A majority of the residents stated they travel outside of the city in order to obtain their food for meals at home. The respondents felt the city has adequate cultural and recreational amenities available for their use and would be interested in retaining or even improving upon them. With its quaint, rural-city size and location nestled among the hills and on the shore of the Susquehanna River, residents were eager to maintain those same qualities while reviving downtown Oneonta.

Other positive attributes of the City that were indicated by the respondents include:

Accessibility—Respondents considered Oneonta a very walkable community. Most enjoyed the convenience of walking to shops, services, recreational resources, and medical services.

City Atmosphere—Many respondents stated that Oneonta was a friendly community with beautiful surroundings. They enjoyed the proximity of the “country” while living in a traditional small city setting. Many felt the city was safe and the schools were good.

Some common concerns expressed by the respondents included:

College-resident relationship - Many respondents felt there was perhaps too much off-campus student housing and maintenance of the properties needed improvement. In addition, student behaviors off campus late at night was seen as unacceptable, especially around highly populated areas such as local bars.

Taxes—The need to stabilize or decrease the amount of property taxes paid by city residents also was a prominent issue raised throughout the survey. Those who responded suggested fewer tax-free organizations, decreasing the amount of rentals, and encouraging downtown redevelopment to improve the overall tax base.



General Comments and Feedback

Question A: What do you like most about living in the City of Oneonta?

Community characteristics

Sense of community
Liked the older, small town atmosphere
Very peaceful community
Country life
Friendly and beauty of city
Peaceful setting
Small town feel
Close knit community
Close knit
Sense of community
Size of community
Quiet city
Small college town
Small city
Peace and quiet
College town
Family friendly
Small town country style living
Quiet neighborhood
Child friendly
Variety of stores and restaurants
Decent community spirit
Community to call "home"
Good place to live, but fading quality of life
Sense of community—not too big

Most parts are quaint and very welcoming
"Homey"
Size
Friendly atmosphere downtown
Main St
"classic town"
Centrally located
Slower pace of living
Balance of colleges and residents

Neighbors

Genuine people in a small community
People
Friendly
Caring community
Good place to raise kids
Like minded people
General kindness of city
Friendly people
Friendly people who care about each other
Good place to raise a family

Community Services

Good medical care
Big city services in a small rural setting
Medical services



General Comments and Feedback

Bus transportation
Access to bus transportation
Libraries
OPT for seniors and handicap
Water/sewer services

Activities (cultural, social, recreational)

Cultural activities
Opportunities for children
Activities
Arts/culture/recreational opportunities
Arts/cultural access
Cultural/spiritual events and places
Arts
Playgrounds for youth
YMCA
Kids can play outside
All of the cultural events
Educational/cultural/artistic/historical activities
Downtown events
Cultural/entertainment activities from colleges
Summer programs for children
Music
Parks and children's sports activities
Availability of cultural events/education

Education

Good schools

Schools and recreation
Colleges
School system
Two colleges
Decent school system (needs improvements)
College connection

Natural Features

Scenery
River
Physically beautiful location
Neahwa Park
Parks
Clean air—keep it that way!
Close to nature
Natural beauty of region
Weather
Rural, rolling hills, seasons
Attractive setting
Proximity of country
Beauty
Beauty of surroundings
Parks system
Geographic location
Pleasant climate

Safety

Relatively clean and safe



General Comments and Feedback

Safety for children
Safe if neighborhood
Generally safe city
Security
Safety
Feel safe
Low crime
Public safety

Convenience

Convenience to schools and services
Being able to walk downtown and to parks
Easy walking access to parks, businesses, etc
Outdoor activities close by
Ease of everyday life and services
Access
Close to Albany and Binghamton
Walking distance to everything
Location to metro areas
Proximity to work and services
Convenient walking distance to services
Convenience to church, hospitals, busses
Convenience of health, banking, library, colleges
Southside shopping
Everything we need except clothing nearby
Convenient for kids activities
Kids programs
Proximity of shops/services

Nearby shopping
Easy to get around/know others

Cost of Living

Affordable property taxes for seniors
Relatively low property costs

Miscellaneous

Familiarity
Little traffic
Diverse population
Private
Many opportunities
Job corps has had a negative impact
Affordable housing
History
My home, my life is there
Always lived here
Cheaper housing
Little congestion
Summer, when college kids are gone
Responsive city leaders
Know everything about the area
No comment at this time
Everything except Southside traffic



General Comments and Feedback

Question B: In the future, what would you like to stay the same in the City of Oneonta?

City Size

Small city

Not to overpopulated

Slow, but regular growth

Small city atmosphere

Size

Not to see the small city life disappear

Small downtown

Community size

Small town feel, no increase in population density

Community Characteristics

Small town appearance

Small town attitude and atmosphere

Preserve family neighborhoods

Small, close community

Friendliness

Charm

Small town atmosphere

"Hometown" attitude

Small town ambience

The people

Main St

"rural" flavor

Quality of city by minimizing rental properties

Preserve character

Small town feeling with larger town offerings

Quality of life

Family oriented

Historic look/character

Small town mindset

Small town quality of life

Neighborhoods without summer rentals/student housing

Architecture/keep Victorian homes

Rent-subsidized apartments

Preserve country setting

Preservation of history, style/appearance

Good place for kids

Services

Paid fire and ambulance service

Hours of library

Medical facilities

Parks and recreation

Improved bus transportation for seniors

Bus transportation (improve or expand)

Foothills performing arts center fully developed

Bus system is good

City pools in the summer

Community services

Library programs



General Comments and Feedback

OPT

Good hospital care

Outer towns to help support pools

Activities (cultural, social, etc)

Free access to parks

Pool for city residents

Cultural activities

Parks and recreation for kids

Events on Main St

Cultural/recreational opportunities

Annual events

Active and passive recreation activities

Activities for children

Oneonta Tigers

Ice skating

Arts, entertainment, restaurants, churches

Cultural strengths

Baseball events

Continue with "First Night" and events on Main St

Free programs for pre-schoolers

Farmer's market

Theatre, musical, lecture opportunities

City pools open to all

Natural Features

Neahwa Park

Park system—stay or increase

Mountains

Clean air—no power plant!

Natural areas

Mountain scenery

Open space

Preserve trees and open space

Clean air—no wood burning

Taxes

Taxes and safety

Not too steep increases in taxes

Tax increase under 7% annually

Don't raise property or schools taxes

STAR program and lower taxes

Taxes to stay stable

Education

Very good school system

Two accessible colleges

Schools

Maintain neighborhood schools

Good rapport with college

Educational opportunities

NO increase/decrease in off-campus housing

Convenience

Ease of walking to services, shops

Walkable



General Comments and Feedback

Community maintenance/appearance

Enforcement of codes

Sidewalks

Keep sidewalks 4-5 feet wide

Streets generally clean and well-planned

Clean up store fronts

City personnel and people cleaning up vacant lots

Economy

Support local business owners

Downtown to stay in business

Affordable living, seniors accommodations

Main St to become "the 50's" again

Keep people involved with city business

Keep good "mom and pop" store downtown

No polluting or congestion causing industry

Downtown revived

Safety

Control rowdiness/drug use

Little crime

Safe, quiet neighborhoods

Safe environment

Safe place to live

Safety and low crime rate

Miscellaneous

Same as in question A

Everything has to change, consistent improvement

Quiet

Lots of things are fine

As is

Don't know

Most of it

Can't think of anything to suspend in the City

No comment at this time

Things are good as is



General Comments and Feedback

Question B: In the future, what would you like to see change in the City of Oneonta?

Downtown/Main St

Back to old Main St
Grocery store in city
Main St retail
Enclosed retail on Main St with anchor store
More stores on Main St
Downtown revitalized
More shopping downtown and on West End
Pedestrian area downtown
Downtown space full with retail or offices
Grocery store downtown
Stores/shopping downtown
Widen Main St for more parking
Retail on Main St
General development downtown
More shopping/clothing downtown
Grocery stores in downtown
Make Main St focal point of area
Enclose Main St, make into retail area
More for locals on Main St
Better use of Main St
Incentives for stores to locate downtown
Grocery/pharmacy stores in city
Downtown to "good old days"

General Development

More retail stores to compete with Wal-Mart
High end retail
Elegant restaurants for adults
Industrial growth
More adult retail downtown
Retail options
More fine dining
Fewer bars
Higher quality stores/retail
Light industry in certain areas
Denser development
Grocery store
Less bars
Second floor lofts
Retail stores for adults
Input from residents on development
Growth outside city
Wish to see some industry
Clean industry
No more tattoo parlors, tanning salons
More grocery and retail
Airport development
More diversity, less "big box" stores (Wal-Mart bad)
Develop city with less student housing
More shopping instead of Wal-Mart



General Comments and Feedback

More long term growth planning
More industrial development
Grocery store
Retail and other stores on West End
More adult entertainment
Railways put to use
More stores not geared towards students
No more tanning salons/bars
Clothing stores
More on West End
Business and industrial development
Larger variety of shops/eateries
Art galleries/sidewalk cafes
Develop West End (Ames plaza)

Housing

Less transient housing outside Main St area
More senior housing
No low income housing
Less areas going to low income rentals
Controls on baseball rentals
Decrease student housing
Less student apartments
More single family homes
Student housing needs control
Fewer student housing
Balance student housing in residential areas and fewer rentals to keep tax base up

Isolate student housing from residential

Community Character

Develop historic buildings
Life in downtown
Keep population down
Historic preservation
Focus on residents and less on students
Better relationship between residents and students

Services

Shut down job corps
Improve infrastructure
Charge non-city residents for pool use
City to provide garbage pick up
City trash pickup
Better library facilities
Job corps questionable
Water system updated
Better snow removal
Assist retired people
Plowing

Activities

More adolescent activities
Ice arena
Arts & cultural development
Improve library



General Comments and Feedback

Summer programs for teens
Decrease number of baseball camps
More arts & entertainment
More attention on youth activities
Ballpark upgrade
More music and arts performances
Decrease baseball camps
Social needs for teens
More kids activities
More recreation centers
More varied recreational/learning opportunities for children,
especially in winter
Adult & resident clubs and restaurants

Community maintenance/appearance

Parking closer to businesses downtown
Enforce building codes
Neighborhood cleanliness overall
Removal of signs of closed up businesses
Code enforcement
Absentee landlords
Landlords held to higher standard for property upkeep
Manhole covers at grade
Street cleaning
Regulations on the appearance and maintenance of off-campus
housing
Litter in parks minimized
3rd and 4th wards are "student ghettos"

Cleaner Main St
Clean up
Clean up properties, junk cars, etc
Home improvement, beautification
Enforce codes for rentals

Safety

Crime in parks minimized
Theft and vandalism near student areas
Police on foot patrol—drug arrests
Control of student behaviors in public
Enforce drinking age
College students—noise enforcement
More police visibility
More police presence
Speed enforcement
Police patrols
Control student noise
Control of students at night
Police focus on serious crimes, not minor things

Natural areas

Beautify and utilize river
Improve access to river
Park/bike paths/walks along river to Town
More bike trails
Upgrade Damaschke Field
Bike trails



General Comments and Feedback

More walking paths

Taxes

Lower taxes

Tax breaks for seniors/veterans

Taxes too high

Stop constantly raising taxes

Government

Annex to town

Qualified people on the zoning board

Progressive attitude

More professional government

Merge city and town

Join city/town

Cap the tax-exempt properties

Code enforcement

More reasonable code/assessors office

Decrease tax-exempt properties

City/town to consolidate services and develop as a region

Full time mayor

Annex south side

Honesty/communication from government

Education

No more college housing

College housing only in certain areas

More student supervision on streets

Stronger schools

More qualified teachers in public schools

College fraternities to campus

Economy

Affordable rents for non-college students

Affordable garden apartments

Professional employment opportunities

Job opportunities for younger people

More for locals rather than tourists

Plan for baseball tourists

Emphasis on industry not the college for jobs

More employment opportunities

Increase tax base

Less dependence on colleges on main employer

Attracting tourism

No more tax free businesses

Jobs

Miscellaneous

Very little

Better treatment of seniors/veterans

Too much influence by landlords and college

Bars to close earlier

Respect for pedestrians

Shorter bar hours

No comment at this time

Dog parks

Less snow, more sun



Design Professionals
382 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207