

Appendix A: Results of 2013 Community Survey

(607 Paper Surveys | 136 On-Line Responses)

1. Quality of Life: Quality of life is made up of many things we can't put a price on. From the following list, please identify which **three** items are the most important reasons you and your family choose to live in Arkansas City.

		3rd Most Important	2nd Most Important	Most Important	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Community appearance that is a source of pride	29	30	20	79
B.	Friendly "small town" atmosphere	78	106	60	244
C.	Cost of living is stable and affordable	71	76	63	210
D.	Low crime rate	48	41	18	107
E.	Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) are adequate	35	42	27	104
F.	Employment opportunities	25	46	77	148
G.	Geographic location	34	24	16	74
H.	Range of types of housing	16	29	2	47
I.	Location near family and friends	45	30	204	279
J.	Parks and recreation facilities and programs	15	14	16	45
K.	Satisfaction with City-provided services	30	23	6	59
L.	Schools	34	22	27	83
M.	Retail shopping opportunities	17	10	13	40
N.	Other	18	4	19	41

2. City Programs: Circle the number that best describes your level of satisfaction with the following:

		Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Maintenance of City parks	2%	4%	23%	51%	20%	682
B.	The number of City parks	2%	3%	23%	51%	21%	685
C.	Walking and biking trails in the City	2%	6%	29%	39%	25%	704
D.	City swimming pool	3%	5%	40%	38%	15%	706
E.	Tennis courts	2%	3%	47%	33%	15%	706
F.	Number of soccer fields	2%	4%	58%	24%	11%	657
G.	Number of softball fields	2%	1%	48%	33%	16%	697
H.	Youth athletic programs	3%	5%	35%	40%	17%	700
I.	Adult athletic programs	3%	8%	50%	31%	9%	703
J.	Other recreation programs, such as classes & special events	4%	10%	40%	35%	12%	704
K.	Cultural programs	4%	11%	43%	31%	10%	646
L.	City community centers	3%	8%	43%	35%	11%	699
M.	Arkalah Fall Festival	3%	5%	15%	41%	36%	719

3. How willing would you be to pay increased taxes or fees for:

		Not Willing	Somewhat Willing	Very Willing	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Community appearance/aesthetics (landscaping, entryways, etc.)	59%	34%	7%	683
B.	Efforts to reduce crime	28%	48%	25%	677
C.	More resources for all emergency services (police, fire, EMS)	33%	45%	22%	663
D.	Improved employment opportunities	29%	40%	32%	681
E.	Greater housing opportunities	59%	31%	10%	659
F.	More parks and recreation facilities and programs	67%	26%	7%	673
G.	Historic preservation, such as brick streets and building repair	52%	37%	11%	685
H.	Rehabilitation/replacement of City's aging infrastructure (water/sewer)	27%	50%	24%	646
I.	Other	--	--	--	82

4. How would you rate the quality of the following services:

		Very Low	Low	Average	High	Very High	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Sewer system	5%	9%	66%	15%	5%	673
B.	Water treatment system	5%	12%	62%	15%	6%	682
C.	Water delivery system	5%	11%	58%	20%	6%	682
D.	Trash pickup operations	4%	6%	40%	30%	20%	662
E.	Recycling operations	18%	21%	40%	13%	8%	649
F.	Stormwater drainage system	10%	14%	58%	14%	5%	678
G.	Streetlight illumination	7%	13%	50%	23%	6%	689
H.	Number of traffic lights	2%	5%	57%	26%	10%	695
I.	School zones/pedestrian crossings	2%	6%	51%	30%	11%	693
J.	Animal control services	11%	14%	48%	19%	8%	660
K.	Street maintenance	18%	24%	41%	13%	4%	689
L.	Other	--	--	--	--	--	36

5. Community Development: Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	I'm willing to work with my neighbors to make our community a good place to live	1%	1%	20%	51%	27%	690
B.	My neighbors are willing to work with me to make our community a good place to live	5%	6%	43%	34%	12%	679
C.	Our community is open and accepting to people of all backgrounds	3%	12%	33%	40%	12%	686
D.	Racial prejudice is present in the community	7%	21%	36%	25%	11%	683
E.	I support a community commitment to diversity and engagement of different ethnicities/people	4%	4%	39%	35%	18%	685
F.	More bilingual written communication is needed throughout the community	23%	25%	33%	12%	7%	629

6. Code Enforcement: Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	All community members should be responsible/ accountable for keeping their property clean and well-maintained	2%	2%	9%	39%	49%	630
B.	I keep my property clean and well-maintained	1%	0%	7%	40%	52%	705
C.	My neighbors keep their property clean and well-maintained	6%	15%	16%	39%	25%	689
D.	Code enforcement of tall weeds, trash and abandoned vehicles is adequate in my neighborhood	7%	13%	19%	41%	20%	685
E.	Code enforcement of tall weeds, trash and abandoned vehicles is adequate throughout Arkansas City	15%	31%	29%	19%	6%	686
F.	I support property tax rebate incentives for property owners who make property improvements costing greater than \$5,000	9%	10%	20%	37%	24%	691

7. Streets and Other Transportation-Related Subjects: Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	The overall street network in the City meets the needs of citizens	5%	14%	24%	49%	8%	687
B.	I support further construction of pathways and sidewalks to promote walking and bicycling in the City	11%	17%	26%	34%	13%	689
C.	The speed at which drivers travel in residential areas is unsafe	7%	22%	27%	30%	15%	689
D.	Obeying stop signs and signals in residential areas is a concern	6%	18%	29%	31%	16%	681
E.	I support a program for sidewalk replacement in residential areas	6%	14%	35%	36%	9%	672
F.	I support the use of public dollars for rail connections for passenger train service between Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Wichita and Kansas City	11%	9%	23%	28%	29%	744
G.	I support City removal of snow on main arterials but not residential side streets	11%	23%	21%	35%	10%	685
H.	I support modernizing streetlights to reduce energy costs	5%	10%	30%	41%	15%	686
I.	I support reduced mowing and trimming along city streets to save public funds	13%	36%	29%	17%	6%	696
J.	I support planning for the West Bypass connection to Madison	11%	18%	41%	23%	8%	678
K.	The City needs to increase its planning efforts to encourage quality development	2%	7%	38%	41%	12%	685
L.	The City should encourage development within the City by offering incentives for redevelopment of properties	5%	7%	30%	42%	16%	689
M.	I support future expansion of the city limits if developers share in the cost of infrastructure improvements	8%	10%	28%	40%	13%	685
N.	The City is making acceptable progress on ADA/Handicap Accessible Routes	3%	6%	46%	38%	8%	664
O.	I support preservation of brick streets in the historic downtown area	10%	11%	27%	32%	20%	693
P.	I support preservation of all the brick streets in the City	14%	15%	31%	22%	18%	697

8. Property Development: As new development occurs, what issues are important to you? Identify the three most important issues from the following list:

		3rd Most Important	2nd Most Important	Most Important	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Whether the development provides open space	29	30	20	79
B.	Compliance with reasonable and well-drafted zoning and subdivision regulations	78	106	60	244
C.	Compliance with reasonable and well-drafted building codes	71	76	63	210
D.	Adequate protection of environmentally sensitive land and natural resources	48	41	18	107
E.	Whether housing in the development will be affordable	35	42	27	104
F.	The quality of public streets that will be constructed	25	46	77	148
G.	The impact the development will have on schools	34	24	16	74
H.	The impact the development will have on traffic	16	29	2	47
I.	Whether the existing public water and sewer service is adequate for the development	45	30	204	279
J.	Whether existing levels of police, fire and EMS service are adequate for the development	15	14	16	45
K.	The impact the development will have on our sense of community	30	23	6	59
L.	The impact the development will have on stormwater drainage	34	22	27	83
		17	10	13	40
		18	4	19	41

9. Housing/Development: Circle the number that best describes your view of the adequacy of the supply of the following types of housing:

	Type of housing:	Adequate Supply	Inadequate Supply	Surplus Supply	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Single-family homes	63%	32%	5%	635
B.	Duplex units	51%	45%	4%	607
C.	Manufactured homes	63%	21%	15%	601
D.	Apartment units	53%	39%	8%	610
E.	Condominiums and townhouses	41%	54%	5%	597
F.	Housing for senior citizens	39%	57%	4%	620
G.	Low income housing	43%	46%	11%	622
H.	Moderate income housing	46%	50%	4%	616
I.	High income housing	61%	20%	19%	605

10. Is the quality of rental housing in Arkansas City satisfactory?

Yes	17%
No	47%
No opinion	36%
TOTAL RESPONSES	684

11. Property Outside the City Limits: Should the City be concerned with land development, outside and adjacent to, existing city limits?

Yes	46%
No	34%
Don't know	20%
TOTAL RESPONSES	694

12. [Answer only if you answered YES to Question 11] Indicate the step(s) the City should take to regulate the use and development of land adjoining the City's present limits:

	Yes	No	TOTAL RESPONSES
Annexation	55%	45%	271
Make the property subject to city zoning without annexing it	60%	40%	280
Encourage Cowley County to adopt zoning	81%	19%	290
Make the property subject to City-adopted building codes	77%	23%	284

13. City Efforts to Create Jobs: Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements:

The City should use public funds:		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	To operate job training programs	11%	23%	30%	25%	10%	659
B.	To encourage job creation through local business expansion	3%	8%	23%	50%	16%	660
C.	To encourage job creation through new businesses	3%	6%	16%	51%	23%	670
D.	To encourage job creation through business relocation	4%	11%	33%	38%	14%	635
E.	By preparing business sites (water, sewer, streets, etc.) that are ready for immediate development	5%	18%	35%	34%	7%	665
F.	To encourage Cowley College to train and educate the local workforce	6%	7%	21%	46%	21%	668
G.	Only when it is demonstrated that community benefits exceed public dollars invested	2%	8%	34%	37%	18%	643
H.	To encourage investment in construction of housing	6%	17%	40%	31%	7%	643
I.	To encourage the construction of low-income housing.	12%	19%	34%	28%	7%	661
J.	To pursue more retail development	3%	8%	28%	40%	21%	646
K.	The City should not be involved in economic development	27%	29%	28%	11%	5%	655

14. City Promotion of Business: Circle the number that best describes your view as to the amount of effort, if any, the City should make to promote:

		No Effort	Some Effort	Significant Effort	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Manufacturing	6%	38%	56%	656
B.	Retail business and services throughout the City	6%	44%	50%	659
C.	Business and services downtown	8%	44%	48%	645
D.	Business/services along Highway US 77/Summit St., north of downtown	19%	54%	27%	611
E.	Business/services along Highway US 77/Summit St., south of downtown	23%	47%	31%	642
F.	Tourism and historic preservation	17%	57%	26%	651
G.	Health care	12%	47%	41%	663
H.	Entertainment and the arts	24%	54%	22%	646
I.	Transportation	18%	56%	25%	651
J.	Warehousing/distribution	30%	55%	15%	609
K.	Recruitment of workers to Arkansas City	23%	47%	30%	642
L.	Partnerships with Cowley College	11%	44%	45%	638
M.	Other	--	--	--	22

15. Water Conservation. Would you support changes to the City's current water rates in order to encourage water conservation?

Yes	30%
No	70%
TOTAL RESPONSES	653

16. Water Quality: New water quality standards will require construction of a new water treatment plant. How familiar are you with this issue?

Familiar	19%
Somewhat knowledgeable	46%
This is the first I have heard of this	35%
TOTAL RESPONSES	685

17. Hiking and Biking Trails: Would you support an extension of the hike and bike trail on the west side of the City, south of Chestnut, to improve safety for travel to the Cowley College Sports Complex?

Yes	54%
No	46%
TOTAL RESPONSES	658

18. Wetlands:

A. If it were likely to result in savings for taxpayers, would you support the City, in partnership with others, developing a wetland area near the Arkansas River to provide wildlife habitat and destination point on the hike and bike trail?

Yes	76%
No	24%
TOTAL RESPONSES	672

B. Would you support such a wetland area becoming a City park?

Yes	65%
No	35%
TOTAL RESPONSES	654

C. Would you like to see the City's historic canal carry water supplied by a wetland?

Yes	62%
No	38%
TOTAL RESPONSES	654

19. Water Treatment Plant. Indicate your opinion on each of the following statements:

To make the best use of investment in the Water Treatment Plant Project the City should:		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Create a wetland for water re-use and educational programs for USD 470, Cowley College and the community	7%	9%	31%	38%	15%	655
B.	Create a wetland for a cleaner environment and to maximize usage of our limited water resources	6%	7%	27%	41%	19%	655
C.	Pursue opportunities to sell water to the casinos and communities south of the City	10%	15%	28%	33%	14%	635
D.	Explore new programs with Cowley College for the training of water treatment plant operators	5%	6%	30%	43%	16%	660
E.	Pursue sustainable building practices when constructing the new plant	2%	2%	26%	47%	22%	673

20. Stormwater Regulation: Indicate your opinion on each of the following statements:

When addressing stormwater regulations, the City should:		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	Continue to make stormwater management and reduction of flooding a priority	1%	4%	22%	59%	13%	650
B.	Require new development and redeveloped properties to reduce their stormwater rate of release	2%	6%	43%	39%	9%	647
C.	Develop new stormwater impact fees based on land area/green space	10%	17%	48%	21%	4%	642
D.	Exempt non-profits from paying stormwater fees	16%	20%	38%	20%	6%	633
E.	Work to improve our environment and rivers by having cleaner stormwater	3%	4%	34%	45%	14%	649

21. Livability: Do you believe the livability of Arkansas City has improved, declined or stayed the same compared to 5 years ago? 10 years ago? 15 years ago?

		Improved	Declined	Stayed the Same	TOTAL RESPONSES
A.	5 Years Ago	22%	36%	42%	659
B.	10 Years Ago,	25%	44%	31%	608
C.	15 Years Ago	23%	51%	26%	612

22. City Taxes: Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	TOTAL RESPONSES
An increase in City taxes that is equal to inflation is OK to keep City services at the same level	18%	31%	46%	5%	674
City taxes should be reduced, even if that means reducing City services	16%	53%	23%	8%	649
City taxes should be increased if that is necessary to maintain a high quality of life, services and property values	18%	37%	39%	6%	648

23. Approximately how many years have you lived in Arkansas City?

(1) Less than 1 year	19	3%
(2) 1-5 years	40	7%
(3) 6-20 years	134	22%
(4) More than 20 years	<u>415</u>	68%
TOTAL RESPONSES	612	

24. Approximately how many years have you lived at your current residence in Arkansas City?

(1) Less than 1 year	51	7%
(2) 1-5 years	107	15%
(3) 6-20 years	279	39%
(4) More than 20 years	<u>273</u>	38%
TOTAL RESPONSES	710	

25. Do you own or rent your current residence?

(1) Own	605	88%
(2) Rent	<u>85</u>	12%
TOTAL RESPONSES	690	

26. Which of the following best describes the location of your home?

(1) East of Highway US 77 Bypass and South of Highway US 166	62	9%
(2) South of Madison Avenue and West of the Walnut River	85	13%
(3) East of Summit Street and North of Madison Avenue	198	29%
(4) West of Summit Street and North of Madison Avenue	314	46%
(5) Outside city limits of Arkansas City but within Cowley County	<u>18</u>	3%
TOTAL RESPONSES	677	

27. Counting yourself, how many people regularly live in your house?

Household Size									
1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person	9-or-more-Person	TOTAL
190	656	186	208	140	72	21	0	9	1,482
13%	44%	13%	14%	9%	5%	1%	0%	1%	

28. How many persons in your household (counting yourself) are in each of the following age groups?

(1) Under age 5	84	5%	(5) Ages 20-24	80	5%	(9) Ages 55-64	265	17%
(2) Ages 5-9	92	6%	(6) Ages 25-34	111	7%	(10) Ages 65-74	271	17%
(3) Ages 10-14	74	5%	(7) Ages 35-44	113	7%	(11) Ages 75+	<u>232</u>	15%
(4) Ages 15-19	75	5%	(8) Ages 45-54	181	11%	TOTAL	1,578	

29. What is your age?

(1) 18-24	18	2%	(4) 45-54	101	14%	(7) 75+	<u>160</u>	22%
(2) 25-34	48	7%	(5) 55-64	150	21%	TOTAL	722	
(3) 35-44	63	9%	(6) 65-74	182	25%			

30. How many adults (persons 18 years of age and older) in your household are currently employed at a workplace in the following locations?

Within Arkansas City	481 people
Within Winfield	88 people
Outside Arkansas City and Winfield, but within Cowley County	110 people
Outside Cowley County	<u>98 people</u>
	777 TOTAL

31. How many adults now living in your home attended school at:

A. USD 470	398 people
B. Private School in Arkansas City	<u>66 people</u>
	464 TOTAL

32. How many adults now living in your home attended college at:

A. Cowley College	387 people
B. College Outside Cowley County	<u>249 people</u>
	636 TOTAL