



**POCAHONTAS COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



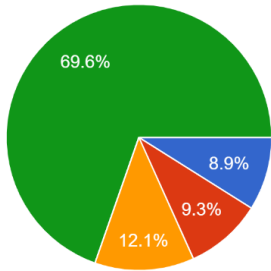
## **2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS**



# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

How long have you lived in Pocahontas County?

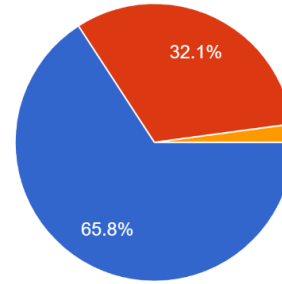
471 responses



- Less than 5 years
- 5-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years

Your gender?

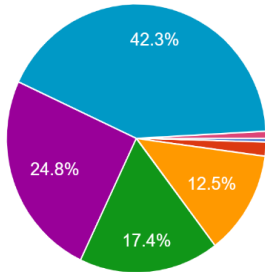
471 responses



- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Your age?

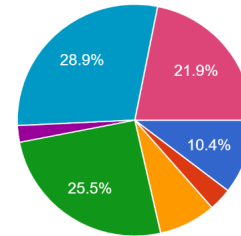
471 responses



- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to respond

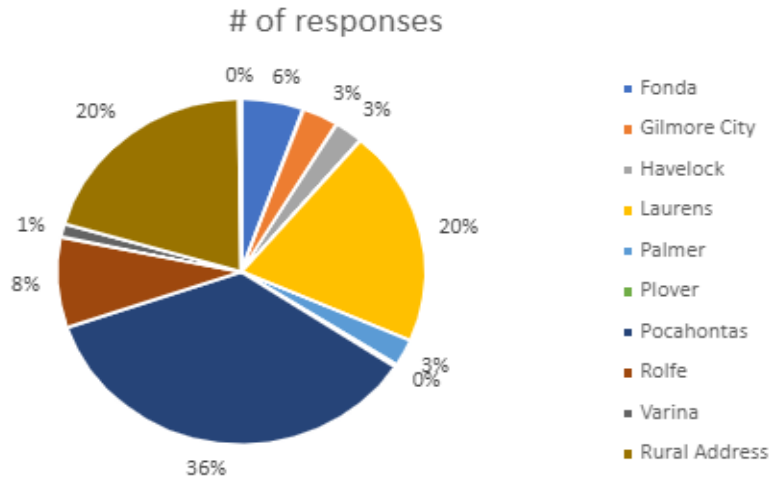
Which best describes your household?

471 responses



- Single
- Single with children
- Couple without children
- Family with children
- Multi-generational family
- Empty nester (retiree or couple with no children living at home)
- Elderly single or couple

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS



**If you work, what is the zip code of your workplace?**

**288 responses**

<u>Zip code</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
50574	131	45.5%
50554	45	15.7%
50581	16	.06%
50540	11	.04%
50588	10	.04%
50548	9	.03%

<b>#</b>	<b>Priority for county</b>	
	<b>471 responses</b>	<b>#</b>
1	Retaining current businesses	417
2	Attract young people and families	400
3	Improve conditions of infrastructure and public amenities	300
4	Expand retail options	296
5	Increase affordable housing	282
6	Expand recreational opportunities	258
7	Increase affordable childcare	258
8	High-speed internet	256
9	Improve the preservation of buildings	239
10	Promote county events	231
11	Increase arts and cultural amenities	97

## 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

What brought you to Pocahontas County?	
<b>Ages 18-24</b>	<b>% of respondents in age groups</b>
<b>8 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	75%
#2 Close to family	50%
#3 Job	13%
<b>Ages 25-34</b>	
<b>58 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	72%
#2 Job	41%
#3 Close to family	34%
<b>Ages 35-49</b>	
<b>81 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	70%
#2 Close to family	31%
#3 Rural setting	30%
<b>Ages 50-64</b>	
<b>116 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	64%
#2 Job	30%
#3 Close to family	20%
<b>Ages 65+</b>	
<b>198 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	56%
#2 Close to family	31%
#3 Job	30%

## 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

What are the best things about Pocahontas County?	
<b>Ages 18-24</b>	<b>% of respondents in age groups</b>
<b>7 responses</b>	
#1 Rural, peaceful setting, small town feel	100%
#2 Proximity to family	57%
#3 Low crime	57%
#4 Low cost of living	29%
<b>Ages 25-34</b>	
<b>58 responses</b>	
#1 Rural, peaceful setting, small town feel	86%
#2 Proximity to family	74%
#3 Low crime	45%
#4 Low cost of living	36%
<b>Ages 35-49</b>	
<b>81 responses</b>	
#1 Rural, peaceful setting, small town feel	84%
#2 Low cost of living	46%
#3 Proximity to family and friends	40%
<b>Ages 50-64</b>	
<b>116 responses</b>	
#1 Rural, peaceful setting, small-town feel	56%
#2 Low crime	27%
#3 Low cost of living	24%
#4 Proximity to family and friends	22%
<b>Ages 65+</b>	
<b>198 responses</b>	
#1 Grew up here	56%
#2 Close to family	31%
#3 Job	30%

## 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

	Do you plan on staying in Pocahontas County 5 years?	Do you plan on staying in Pocahontas County 10 years?
<b>Ages 18-24</b>	<b>% of respondents in age groups</b>	<b>% of respondents in age groups</b>
<b>8 responses</b>		
Yes	63%	38%
No	0%	13%
Unsure	37%	49%
<b>Ages 25-34</b>		
<b>58 responses</b>		
Yes	74%	59%
No	2%	3%
Unsure	22%	38%
<b>Ages 35-49</b>		
<b>81 responses</b>		
Yes	73%	52%
No	2%	6%
Unsure	19%	40%
<b>Ages 50-64</b>		
<b>116 responses</b>		
Yes	67%	59%
No	4%	3%
Unsure	17%	35%
<b>Ages 65+</b>		
<b>191 responses</b>		
Yes	69%	47%
No	1%	1%
Unsure	28%	49%

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

## What recreational activities do you currently utilize and what activities would you like to see added to Pocahontas County?

### 18-24 years of age

#### Utilize:

When I first moved here I did join the book club. However, sports clubs for adults are few and far between in this area!

County parks .hunting

Like pool, library, parks

Like: frisbee in the park and movie theater

#### Need:

Need: Would love to see some type of rec center with indoor facilities. Whereas indoor facilities with indoor tracks could be used year round!

Need rec center

### 25-34 years of age

#### Utilize:

Walking trail

Currently unable to access any. Would like adult recreational activities. More activities for younger kids. More paths (a park with a pond like Rolfe and Laurens).

Go to the parks.

I use the trails frequently and would like larger parks for kids

We utilize the park as we have a toddler.

I currently use The Zone for bowling. Also in the summer swimming pool as well as parks!

Elbert Park, tennis courts, swimming pool, soccer fields, bowling alley. Would like to see more options for kids in the winter. the library has very restricted hours.

I enjoy the pickleball/tennis courts and soccer fields in Pocahontas. Would like to see the walking trail project continue.

Public parks, county fair, Fonda labor day celebration, Laurens Christmas open house, Fonda craft show, youth soccer, and Fonda tball.

I use the city parks and pool. Would be great to get a walking trail

Pool

Hunting and fishing.

Love Elbert Park, the pool. Would like walking trails.

Golf, Town events.

Youth soccer program, parks, Flex fitness, etc

Playgrounds, swings, and ball fields at Elbert's parks

We currently utilize all the sporting options that Pocahontas has to offer (Soccer, softball, baseball, flag football). We also utilize the Pocahontas Golf Course and swimming pool.

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

## Need:

More youth sports or activities, more adult social opportunities, mothers support groups or clubs to connect mothers with other families

Add rifle and handgun shooting ranges. Currently, leave town for entertainment.

Rec center for families to stay active all year round, outdoor splash zone, more handicap accessible play equipment at playground

Rec center and trails- Humboldt is an attractive city that we've contemplated moving to.

More child-friendly options- wellness center?

Dance/gymnastics in town. We travel out of town and would love to stay in town

Increased connecting trail systems for running, and biking,

Need miniature golf for our towns.

Rec sports, NWI badger ball & amenities, would like to see more business relationships with each other doing events together

Bike trail we use as a family. Would like to see a community center in Laurens. City had a chance at that in the old parish center but failed. Laurens needs a fitness center that will actually improve equipment.

## 35-49 years of age

### Utilize:

Like swimming pool, park, theatre.

Food establishments

3 Rivers trail

3 Rivers Trail, City Parks, Pocahontas Soccer Complex, Rolfe Public Library, 4H, ...

I ride my bike.

My child is part of soccer. No suggestions for additional options at this time.

Parks. Bike/walking loop around the town

We participate in Youth soccer t-ball softball church and Sunday school

I love the walking trail in Laurens and would like to have more trails like it! It would be nice if Pocahontas County had a family-friendly camping spot like they do in Paullina or Scharnberg Park.

Community walking/biking trail

I enjoy the trail system and park in Laurens.

Biking, hiking, camping, Elbert Park. I love the new equipment and pool

Boating, paddle boarding, kayaking

Park, pool

Trails, parks, and pool.

Golf courses, parks, playgrounds.

bowling, movie theater, county fair, heritage days, 4-H

Pocahontas Golf Course, Pocahontas swimming pool

Park, pool, baseball fields, gyms, track/football field

Swimming pool-Rolfe; hiking 3 Rivers trail

My kids participate in summer swimming lessons in Fonda pool.

Currently use sports complexes, public parks, and golf courses.

Golf



# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

Currently trails, increase trails.
Camping, pancake breakfast
Parks & walking. I'd like to see improvements to the tennis court in Laurens.
Golf course and like to see added bike trails
We use the Pool, parks, and soccer fields. Love to see improvements to the pool and parks, a walking path or sidewalks would be amazing
County Camping parks, city parks, library programs, Rialto theater, and local shopping
We participate in Youth soccer t-ball softball church, and Sunday school
I love the walking trail in Laurens and would like to have more trails like it! It would be nice if Pocahontas County had a family-friendly camping spot like they do in Paullina or Scharnberg Park.
Community walking/biking trail
I enjoy the trail system and park in Laurens.
Biking, hiking, camping, Elbert Park. I love the new equipment and pool. I wish we had a splash pad,
<b>Needed:</b>
We would like to see a shooting range for handguns & rifles. We moved back here because of affordability, but property taxes are getting out of hand.
Would like a recreational building with an indoor pool, etc.
Restaurant in Laurens
Little league field in Fonda; basketball court in Fonda
Id like to see more bike trails
Currently use the parks. Add a fitness center with a play area for children. Indoor pool for winter months
We need More Things for young kids to be able to do and be involved with other than Video Games.
I'd like to see more bike trails
Would like to see walking trail
Parks. Bike/walking loop around the town
Need rec center and youth programming in the country for all towns.
Would like to see more recreational sites for UTVs and 4-wheelers. The DNR does a terrible job of promoting this in the area.
ATV trails along creeks and rivers
Activities that are more inclusive for special needs children and their families.
Family things. I know we have bowling but anything else people have to travel at least an hour to do and that hurts all businesses.
Would like to see an ATV/UTV park.
Would like to see a splash pad and indoor pool opportunities for disabled
Law enforcement in Rolfe, get control of bad homes, and incentives for people to build, small businesses in Rolfe
Need childcare here and a bigger gym. We swim, go to the park, and watch baseball
Community gym / Rec center
None. Would like a recreational center for youth maybe a bowling league and movie theater with brand new popular movies,
Community walking/biking trail
Would love a nice outdoor and indoor shooting range.
Would like to see an ATV/UTV park.

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

## 50-64 age group

### Utilize:

- do fishing and camping
- enjoy fishing and hunting
- use trails disk golf, would like sand volleyball and pickleball
- Parks. walking trails. Added: pickleball courts, public golf course, community theater, community bands, antique stores and restaurants
- Trails golf course parks swimming pool
- Trails and pool
- use parks, golf-
- We use the golf course and trail in Rolfe for recreation along with local land for hunting.
- Fishing, hunting, and walking trail
- GC Fun Days
- Golf
- Pool, gyms, bowling! Pickleball courts
- Trails, and parks. Would love to see a recreation center
- Swimming pool, theater
- We do Little League, soccer, and wrestling.
- Hiking, camping, fishing, biking, and motorcycle riding
- Parks and ball fields

### Needed:

- Kayaking, parks, TRAILS, LARGE WORKOUT FACILITY WITH THERAPY POOL, SENIOR LIVING
- Bags tournaments
- Decent swimming pool in Laurens
- Need new superintendent and better school system.
- Need a rec center for the county and a county school versus town schools
- Would love to see a trail at Poky completed. Poky gives abandoned house lots to a contractor to help clean up the town. Improve the atmosphere in schools.
- More concerts
- Need atv areas
- Would love to see a trail at POKY completed. POKY gives abandoned house lots to a contractor to help clean up town. Improve the atmosphere in schools.

## 65+ age group

### Utilize:

- Like county parks Rialto theatre
- Like bike path and Rialto
- trails are nice
- Need to attract businesses so young people and families can have good paying jobs.
- Like parks and hiking

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

Like Clear Lake Park and Plover Pit
Like walking, biking, and golfing in Laurens
Like golf course/campgrounds would like pickleball and bike trails in Fonda
Like disc golf
use bowling, parks, library, pool.
Like Rolfe fishing and walking trails
Like pools, ballfields, parks, and trails
Like pool, parks, and trails
We use Rialto Theatre, Laurens Frisbee Golf, the Parks, Little Clear Lake Playground. We would like to see the extended walking trail for Pocahontas. Thanks for all you do for our communities.
Like golf, pool, and biking.
County parks
Use swimming pool, theatre, golf course
Like theatre, library, church, swimming
Like swimming pool, golf course
Golf and Trapshooting.
golf bowling hunting
Walk, bike.
Fishing, hunting.
Like Three Rivers Trail
Outdoor activities. Bike trails
use the golf course, walking trails, and library
walking trails
Like golf, pool, and pickleball.
Like libraries and bike trails
Like golf, and music events
Like movie theatres. Need to clean up abandoned houses in town.
Bike trail
Movie theater, restaurants, school activities
Golf
Biking and hiking trails/golf
Golf, trails, and pickleball
Camping and Fishing.
We use the trails.
Like Sportsman parks
like school and camping
Like the Rialto theatre
Add pickleball and sand volleyball in Laurens
Laurens needs restaurants
Would like to see an exercise facility in Laurens.
Just keep making progress!

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

Like golf and swimming pool
Like improvements to Sportsman's Pond
Library every week and Bill and Lins Barn for donuts, coffee with friends
Library, church, and going to Bills Bakery
Like walking paths in Gilmore City
Swimming pool
Like Fonda park, summer celebrations, fair, community garden, and disc golf
<b>Needed:</b>
Fishing
Need affordable housing cheaper than 150,000 for manufacturing people.
I walk a lot and am a misanthrope
Like Rolfe Pool. I would like year around pool
Need to clean up the alleys and get rid of the cars and junk. Get rid of rodents that eat everything. Best things: Wood's Grocery, Hospital, Dental, and Pharmacy
I am upset that the COVID funds were used to pave the courthouse parking lot. Courthouse did not lose a dime during COVID!
promote garage sales and public library events
Tennis, and craft days
Id like to see a walking/biking trail for Fonda and Pocahontas! I would really like to see someone try to get businesses in Fonda!! Before long all the buildings will be gone on Main Street!!
Increase hunting areas, plant fruit trees on wasteland, build up pheasant populations and slow the building of hog confinements.
Add pickleball and sand volleyball in Laurens
Laurens needs restaurants
Would like to see an exercise facility in Laurens.
Need pickleball in Laurens
Need pickleball in Rolfe
Pickleball, walking at Expo Would like to see the bike trail become a reality!
Cleaning up our town on houses and yards with all the junk in them. Especially the big old grey house on Highway 4 I feel cleaning up their town should be #1 if you want to welcome people.
Pocahontas needs to clean up the town, junk by homes, and we have ordinances that need to be enforced.
Off road park - repurpose Gilmore City into an off-road park. Need more county parks. Add a Mexican restaurant in our county somewhere.
Ohv park. More parks. Better rural internet. More transportation for seniors in rural towns without vehicles
You can't expect families to want to move to Pocahontas if you build more hog confinements.
Supervisors and officials need to drive Highway 3 and Rolfe Road. It is so bad and needs to be replaced.
Pocahontas has not enforced nuisances. Some properties have become really rundown and look like used car lots. You don't see this in Prairie Estates.
Wellness center
More things for elderly people to do
Need transportation for elderly or non-drivers in Rolfe area
Recreation center for both seniors and family

# 2023 POCAHONTAS COUNTY VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

Need a restaurant in Laurens
Need to attract businesses so young people and families can have good paying jobs.
Increase hunting areas, plant fruit trees on wasteland, build up pheasant populations and slow the building of hog confinements.
Would like a pickleball court in Laurens
I would like to see the walking/bike trail in Laurens connect to the trail in Rolfe

## What is needed to maintain/grow the population?

Priority based on age.

18-24 year olds
#1 Retain current businesses
#2 Increase affordable housing
#3 Expand retail options
#4 Improve conditions of public amenities
35-49 year olds
#1 Attract young people and families
#2 Increase affordable housing
#3 Expand retail options
#4 Expand recreational opportunities
50-64 year olds
#1 Expand retail options
#2 Attract young people and families
#3 Retain current businesses
#4 Improve preservation of buildings
65+ year olds
#1 Retain current businesses
#2 Expand retail options
#3 Attract young people and families
#4 Improve conditions of infrastructure & public amenities