

Q1: What do you love about your community?

SMALL TOWN FEEL

After living in larger populated areas, and even foreign countries, I've decided that, personally, rural living is the better pace. I grew up here and I really appreciate small town culture.

Also, it is small enough to have a true sense of community, to see people you know at the grocery store, and yet large enough to have many things to offer (winery, cidery, movie theater, library, PARKS. No doubt, Goldilocks would have found herself at home in Winterset.

As a transplant, I love the small town and ease of travel to Des Moines.

Being close to Winterset, which has a small town feel but also provides enough basic services.

Close proximity to all stores. Light traffic.

Convenience

Ease of getting around and

Ease of life style

Great place to live, and raise a family.

Has the "small town Iowa" feel.

Having lived in several large cities, I find the quality of life very pleasing here, especially for raising children in safety while still allowing a degree of freedom.

How workable Winterset is

I love that Winterset has the town vibe with

I also like the size of our community.

I grew up here and love my small town. There are many memories here as I went to school in every school but the middle school and junior high. We have kind people in general. I love the closeness of this community.

I know about everyone and I love that's it's a small town.

I like living in a small town.

I love that it is a small community but

I love that it is a small town with Des Moines available close by.

I love that Winterset is a 'Mayberry' type of community. Small yet full of opportunities.

I love the bedroom community we have here.

I love the size of our community,

I love the size of the community and

I love the small-town atmosphere that still has many/most amenities needed.

I love the small town.

I love the small town, close-knit feel, but the close proximity to Des Moines.

I love the small town. Being able to feel safe walking the streets and shopping.

I moved here in 1998. This is more home than any place I've ever been.

Independence of the metro.

It is a perfect size to provide for our needs.

It is a small community where I feel safe and I feel is a safe place to raise my children.

It is not too big of a town so you cannot have a lot of traffic

It is quiet and peaceful.

It is small enough to know a lot of people, but large enough that you can find most everything you need in the way of friends, fellowship and resources.

It is smaller and you know a lot of people but not everyone. I also love that you can get most everything here in town that you need.

It's easy to get around, easy to find businesses and people's homes.

It's quiet and peaceful.

it's good-sized, most everyone knows each other

It's large enough that you don't feel suffocated yet small enough that you get to know people by name.

it's not too big and not too many people.

It's quiet.

It's small.

It's small enough that you know people wherever you go. Accessing services like the doctor, the courthouse, the pharmacy and banking is extremely convenient.

It's small.

I like that the town is fairly small, but close to Des Moines.

Like the size and it being the county seat.

Like the small size of the community-- everything is within walking distance or easy to get to.

Live within a small community.

Location, size,

Moved here to get away from larger urban area to a smaller community with more room ... small town feel is important.

Not very many people

Peaceful

Perfect size,

Proximity to Des Moines but the ability to buy most things here in town,

Relatively safe and quiet.

Simple life. Simple pleasures. Small town.

Size of community

Small town feeling,

Small

Small

Small

Small and very friendly

Small community, not too crowded,

Small rural setting

Small size

Small town

Small town

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere with most of big city amenities

Small town atmosphere.

Small town atmosphere. We help each other.

Small town closeness

Small town feel

Small town feel

Small town feel and closeness

Small town feel and sense of community.

Small town feel of community

Small town feel

Small town feel

Small town feel

Small town feel

Small town feel, Norman Rockwell downtown

Small town feel.

Small town feel.

Small town feel. You know most people.

Small town feel. I feel safe in our community. I feel comfortable having my child play outside without the risk of him being hurt.

Small town feeling,

Small town feeling, where together everyone achieves more.

Small town living!

Small town living.

Small town look and feel

Small town nature. Know your neighbors and city officials.

Small town quaintness

Small town sense of community with all the basic necessary services.

Small town warmth

Small town where you know a lot of or most who live here.

Small town

Small town, embodies "Iowa Nice"

Small town, rural, slow-paced

Small town, yet close enough to Des Moines

Small towns, most amenities you need are here.

Small, not too small though.

That there aren't too many people

The ability to raise our children in a more relaxed life close to the Des Moines metro.

The big-city feel with a small-town friendliness and warmth.

The charming historic small town feel with big town accessibility when I want it in the larger Des Moines area.

The draw of a typical small-town community...know my neighbors, supportive community members, pride in our community,

The peace and quiet.

The size of the community,

The size.

The small-town atmosphere.

The small-town charm.

The small town feel

The small town feel

The small town feel and atmosphere.

The small-town feel, the sense of community,

The small-town feel.

The small-town feel. Not too big, not too small and close enough to Des Moines. Luckily, we don't have to leave town much because there are many stores, gas stations, etc.

The small town feeling with a close proximity to Des Moines.

The small town feeling you get when you come into the community.

The small town feeling you get when you go uptown to do any shopping.

The small-town friendly feel.

The smaller town feel where everyone knows each other and look out for each other!!

The town and what we have to offer, the safety of a small community,

The way of life

Want kids to grow up in a small town. Like it not being busy, knowing everybody, slower pace, value the small-town feel, more participation

Winterset has been my home for 60 years and, although we have gained almost 2000 people over that time, Winterset still has the 'small community feel' -- which has been the desire -- of everyone -- to keep.

Small enough that you can get to know people as individuals.

We maintain our rural and small town feel.

PEOPLE CHARACTERISTICS

Values, Attitudes, Behaviors, Relationships

5th generation

After living here for 26 years, it's the people and relationships that connect us. We have enjoyed friendly neighbors.

Age diversity in population,

Appreciate how the community supports each other

Family

Family & friends are here

Friendly

Friendly people

Friendly people

Great neighbors

I grew up here & have family here.

I grew up here, and found it a soft place to land after living elsewhere. I have family here, and found it to be a great place to raise my children. In the meantime, I have come to appreciate it's many gifts, especially the neighborliness. It's a great place to be alive!

I have moved to other states when I was younger but always came back. This is home, where the farmers do the finger wave and people stop and say hi.

I love the pride in the Winterset community

I was born and raised here

Came because of the physical location between our places of employment. Stayed because we love the people, community spirit, and civic pride.

Close knit community, friendliness,

Closeness and family atmosphere

Close feeling with people I don't even know. Knowing I can have a conversation with anyone anywhere in town.

Community feel

Community Pride

Community... Winterset has a loving and accepting culture that values family and true relationships. A place where I know I can talk with my neighbors, and people who I can trust to help me raise my children.

Decent people for the most part.

Diversity in the community

Everyone caring for each other.

Everyone is kind and caring.

Everyone is so friendly and inviting

Everyone is so welcoming

Everything! I love the people!

Family is here. Community-minded people.

Feeling of family. Friendliness. Neighbors and a community who care and whose actions always speak louder than their words.

Feeling that if I were in need of help someone would step up to help me.

Friendliness

Friendliness

Friendliness

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly. "Everyone knows everyone" feeling.

Friendly - Family

Friendly and helpful

Friendly and takes pride in its heritage.

Friendly and welcoming people.

Friendly atmosphere!!

Friendly atmosphere, community support of others.

Friendly folks (mostly). Neighbors helping neighbors.

Friendly for the most part.

Friendly. Helpful. Know everyone.

Friendly hometown

Friendly neighbors

Friendly people

Friendly people

Friendly people

Friendly people

Friendly people

friendly people

Friendly people

friendly people

Friendly people who say hi and talk to each other.

Friendly people

Friendly people

Friendly people.

Friendly people,

Friendly people, traditional American values.

Friendly people.

Friendly people.

Friendly people.

Friendly town

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly, caring people.

Friendly, hard-working people

Great people

Have a good neighbor!

Helpfulness, caring,

Helping one another. People are kind, caring and supportive in good times and in bad times. Strong sense of right and wrong.

Hometown, born and raised

Hospitality, people of generally pragmatic common sense.

How everyone knows each other

Friendly and out going

How vibrant and family oriented we are.

I am from here and was born here.

I feel very welcomed here and find my fellow Winterset residents to be friendly and always ready to lend a hand whether it be with sharing their experiences or helping others that are in need within our community.

I grew up here and can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else. I love our community!

I have been here since Feb (2019) and enjoy the area, people and lifestyle.

I have developed great relationships with other community members and families, mostly through my children and their athletic activities but also through school as a parent and employee. I also love that everyone is caring and helpful.

I have lived here all my life. My dad, grandparents and great grandparents all lived here.

I have many friends.

I know people everywhere I go, and they know me.

I like the people.

I love going places and knowing friendly faces.

I love how they pull together during tragedy.

I love how this community comes together when a family or business is in need.

I love seeing people we know in the grocery store and stopping to talk.

I love that everyone knows everyone else. I love the caring and kindness that Winterset residents express to each other.

I love that newcomers are mostly welcomed into the life and work of the community and their ideas are valued.

I love that you are able to get to know people in this community, but still get to pick and choose who you really get to know. It's large enough that you don't know every single little thing about everyone, but you know pretty much everyone just a little.

I love the community. It's like I have family.

I love the comradery of the neighborhoods and the care and concern all of Winterset seems to show to friends as well as to newcomers! It doesn't take long for persons 'landing' in Winterset to be invited to join this or that or come along to an event that helps them get acquainted with like-minded others.

I love the fact that we not only Stand Together We Fight together and we are there for each other.

I love the kind and friendly atmosphere.

I love the people.

I love the people.

I love the people. They are so nice.

I love the sense of pride people take in caring for our community.

I recognize well over half of the citizens. That stems from being born in Winterset, living the first 20 years of my life in the area, then returning back home over 10 years ago.

I taught school here first and now Pastor Grace Baptist Church in Winterset.

I was born and raised here. I feel very connected to the people here. It is a really supportive community that takes care of each other.

It is a great place to live because of the people who have mid-western values.

It is obvious that the residents feel a great sense of pride in our community.

Its uniqueness. Friendly and proud residents

it's a good place to raise a family.

It's been home all my life. The good things outweigh the perceived bad things.

Its friendliness,

It's home. Always has been

Kind people. People are dedicated and loyal to Winterset.

Kind people.

Decent human beings

Most everyone is very friendly and welcoming. When we first moved to town someone came to our door to welcome us with a bag full of different information about Winterset and Madison County.

Most everyone knows everyone and they're mostly friendly.

Most of the people I've met.

Most of the people we've met.

Most people are very friendly.

Mostly good people

Moved here for family

Moved here for family

Moved here in 2014. Established self in community and never left.

My family roots and family history here.

My kids have a lot of really good friends. We've lived in Winterset for the last 3 years, and our family was welcomed with open arms.

My neighbors

Near family.

Neighborly, friendly.

Nice people

Nice people who care about their community

Outgoing nature

People

People

People - Courthouse Square/Shopping - trees - relative safety.

People are easy to get to know.

People are friendly and kind.

People are friendly.

People are very friendly and reach out to help others. They are respectful and others.

People are willing to help one another.

People CARE and make time to help others.

People caring positively about all of Madison County.

People genuinely care.

People know each other and care about each other.

People

People take pride in preserving the past AND building for the future.

People willing to help each other.

People working together to have a beautiful community to live in, both physically and spiritually.

People

People

Progressive while still keeping traditions

Rural farming-based, down-to-earth people. Willing to help. Good churches and neighbors.

Sense of family. I love my community because the people you meet here become your family.

Small home town people who reflect the best of America's historical and traditional faith and values.

So many people happy to help when they see a need.

That everyone knows my mom.

That we have programs that help care for homeless animals. It's nice to know that Winterset residents have a heart for the less fortunate creatures instead of letting them starve and multiply. Such as helping them receive shots, worming, spay and neuter and be taken care of in foster homes until permanent homes are found. I think this sets a very good example for our youth, as far as compassion.

The caring and compassionate people. Neighbors who look out for each other.

The close-knit neighborhood.

The closeness of neighbors and family. They are ready to help at a moment's notice.

The commitment of so many people to keeping values strong.

The communication between neighbors

The connections people have spent years building.

The culture and helping people

The fact that we have a forward-thinking population.

The flowers that bloom all summer are magnificent and a wonderful testament to how much the residents of this community care.

The focus on family, and the friendly, forward-thinking people.

The friendliness

The friendliness

The friendliness of the people

The friendliness of the people

The friendly people

The friendly people

The friendly residents

The great sense of community and friendly people

The helpful people

The most favorable thing in the community is my friends. It is very difficult to get acquainted with new members of the community.

The people

The people

The people

The people

The people

The people

The people - the support

The people

The people

The people are mostly kind.

The people are very "Iowa friendly."

The people- close relationships, helpful, serving others

The people first

The people in the neighborhood.

The people of this community take a lot of pride in the county.

The people

The people

The people

The people

The people and the close-knit community

The people

The people. The energy. The community spirit. The pride.

The people. There are neighbors in my area who really care about those who live around them and are quick to lend a hand or enjoy a conversation, etc.

The people. They are the reason why we don't live in Des Moines.

The people...caring & prideful of the community.

The pride in the care of the community

The pride people show in their community

The pride people take in community.

The pride people take in community. All the community support of school activities, people in need, retail shops, fundraisers, church congregations, and small-town environment.

The pride that people take in the community

The pride we take in it. Of course, the people.

The sense of community spirit

The value placed on keeping the community alive and progressive.

The way our citizens pull together to support groups, events, businesses, and keeping our town clean and beautiful.

The Winterset Community is very supportive of one another.

They make sure that their kids are always being watched.

Tight-knit

Vibrant. It's not a dying community, but alive and thriving.

The way people are welcomed

We have the greatest and most supportive neighbors compared to previously living in West Des Moines.

We love the people.

We step up and help each other when we are in need.

What few people I've met are amazing.

Winterset is moving forward, not waiting to die. We are unique and special, Iowa nice.

Winterset: Friendly residents; Very supportive community toward school and community needs and functions.

With big hearted people that know me and my family

COMMERCE, BUSINESSES, JOBS

The helpfulness and involvement of the local stores, their staffs and owners.

and the fact that we have a thriving downtown!

The shopping

Business people, too, seem to contribute to the wellbeing of the community. I love the amenities of the community.

Businesses will accommodate for what you need, whether need to order or prepare food for eating out.

Can work where I live. Nice variety of stores on the square.

Core business district on Winterset square.

Decent grocery stores

Easy access to business,

Effective Chamber of Commerce efforts

Everything we need and more

Family-owned merchants and farmers

Filled downtown (mostly)

Food and durable goods

Friendliness - esp. Ben Franklin employees. Madison County Merchandise - every customer treated special whether local or tourist.

Friendly businesses around the square and beyond.

Frostee's, every place in town.

(Great place to) work,

Great sense of entrepreneurship - People support local

Grocery stores

Has about everything you need (don't have to go outside of town very often)

Has almost anything that a person really needs.

Has what we need for everyday life.

How we are attempting to attract more business that will keep our young here, or at least be attractive to them.

I am grateful we have people in our community whose goals are to improve visibility for our county, encourage visitors to explore our wonders,

I have an Earlham address but live between Earlham and Winterset so I go there for most of my needs. I like the atmosphere and mix of services.

I have an Earlham address but since I live in the country between I trade in Winterset and go there a lot more.

I love all the great businesses around our square.

I love being able to support independent businesses in my town.

I love how this community supports smaller, local businesses.

I love my career, and it is what keeps me in Winterset. I love living and working in the same community so that I don't have to commute.

I love our Fareway, but I like Hy-Vee, too.

I love the banks and grocery stores.

I love the fact that we actually have some businesses in town that cater to people that actually live here and are not tourists and they know me by name.

I love the locally run business.

I love the way the business community supports one another to make our community always better.

I work here in town.

Ice cream/bakery shops.

It did have most of the items I would need but we have now lost ShopKo and the Farm and Home so will have to shop outside the community now. Do not like that idea. Pushes people to the Internet to other towns for supplies.

It has everything you need, maybe not as many choices as other cities, but it meets most needs- grocery, restaurants, hardware, misc. shopping, vet services.

Local businesses that offer a variety of products to buy.

Local businesses

Local businesses

Lots of local support from businesses

Most of the amenities/accommodations anyone could need.

My job

No big shops, small family-owned businesses,

Mo empty buildings on square

No empty storefronts on the square and very few within Winterset, which indicates profitability and also shows the majority of residents are shopping local to help sustain these businesses; banks with well-kept buildings and facilities for each.

Number and type of businesses available.

Offers so much as far as convenience with grocery shopping, the vibrant downtown and close attractions, wineries.

Our community cares with a strong square, chamber, and ag-business partners.

Our town square! Love the many shops.

Resources that I need

Restaurants, local shops

Retail and restaurant options

Self-sufficient

Shopping in unique stores where the owner greets you

Shopping

Small town businesses

Small town shops, feeling that we are contributing to small business owners.

That people in the shops are right there to help you

That we haven't succumbed to big business and have a thriving square. People whine and say they want a Walmart or some equivalent and that would be the death of our square. While I am all for shopping local, if you absolutely need a Walmart, drive 35 miles and save our square.

The adequacy of shopping

The businesses

The culture of respect and collaboration among civic groups, businesses, churches and individuals.

The Northside Cafe

The progressive business and professional atmosphere

The shopping

The shops

The small town feel but places to shop

The spirit of community within the businesses

The square and all the unique shops

The variety of stores and resources

There are commercial opportunities ... business owners are involved in the community

There are few empty storefronts around town.

There are great businesses in our community.

Thriving local businesses

Unique shopping

Variety of quaint little shops

Variety of shops

We also have some really cool, currently appealing businesses.

We are lucky to have so many wonderful businesses so you can do almost all of your shopping in town.

We have unique shops that many other communities no longer have such as Ben Franklin.

(Well Kept) Businesses.

When we first moved here we had full square of stores you could buy anything... Didn't have to go out of town for anything.

Wide variety of businesses

You can find anything you NEED in town

THE SQUARE

architecture of courthouse and square

beautiful square

beautiful square,

beautiful Town Square with great shops

Clean, well-kept square

County Seat

Court house and beautiful downtown

Court House

I love the fact that our community has tried to keep upgrading our square.

I love the Square.

I love the town square and how vibrant it looks.

I love the Winterset square.

intact town square

love the beauty of the city square and immediate surroundings

lovely uptown

Our square, and its uniqueness

The beautiful square

the beautiful town square

the beauty of the square

The courthouse square. With the shopping, restaurants, movie theater, museums, government offices, doctor office, dentist, pharmacy, everything you would need all right in one spot.

the great town square

The historic courthouse square

the Square

the square (both sides, stores and courthouse),

The square

The square seems to be thriving

The square

the Square, court house

The square, the work we have done (facelift) on the square,

The town square

the town square

The town square

The town square. Not only is it beautiful, but it contains everything we need!

The Winterset town square and 'old time' feel of the town.

Town square quaintness and tourist destination

town square

town square

town square

We have a nice square

Well-Kept Square

Winterset does a fantastic job around square, etc.

Winterset square - an oasis of food and shopping

RECREATION / ENTERTAINMENT / ACTIVITIES

Activities for kids.

Activities that are available to all ages.

activities to meet the needs of the young, the old and all in between.

also provides for so many enjoyable experiences like Covered Bridge, etc.

the community activities

The Iowa Theater

support activities for the youth

community activities for young people including sports and art

Community activities throughout the year

community band & Thurs lawn chair nights, parades

flat so I can have a nice bike ride around town

I also love the theater being up and running again breathing life back into our community.

I like our celebrations and parades they bring everyone out to celebrate together.

I love that Winterset is a small town with a lot going on.

I love the redone Iowa Theater and the sense of community when you are there.

I love the theater.

Interesting community events. I appreciate the parks in and around the city and the recreational opportunities they provide.

(it meets most needs) entertainment, outdoor rec activities.

It is also a good place to bicycle.

kayaking and bicycle riding

kids' activities

Local events to attend.

Local support for year-round activities,

Lots of opportunities to be active and learn.

Movie Theater

Our town always has events to keep us entertained year-round as well.

plenty of things to do and see

So much to do! Our parks are fabulous!

The city provides a nice pool

The Iowa Theater

The Iowa Movie Theater.

the Iowa Theater

The variety of things to do in the area and to share those activities with family and friends when they visit.

there are many opportunities for our youth

There are numerous opportunities for things to do, making it so it's difficult to leave town because you're going to miss something!

things like nice recreational opportunities for our citizens both adult and students

We always have something in the community going on.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Groups, Churches, Volunteering

a place to worship in our church

Ample choice of churches within our community for residents to choose from; Winterset is its own 'Mayberry';

Church

church - able to get involved

church, clubs and organizations, Women's Giving Circle opportunities

community betterment organizations

community involvement

Community involvement, people willing to volunteer, share, donate, pride.

Community minded organizations (Kiwanis, Legion, Lions) who work to help others. Sense of unity.

community projects,

community volunteerism to get something done

I like the way the community helps out others through local initiatives.

I love that we all work together.

I love the care and attention that volunteers in particular devote to Winterset –

I love the churches we attend.

I love the willingness of everyone to pitch in and step up to make Winterset the best it can possibly be.

I love the Winterset community because (I believe) that we work together well. Volunteerism does not seem to be a 'problem' and most residents rally to support every project or event.

It is a welcoming place to get involved and doors are opened with smiles. I appreciate it.

Like Community spirit = People pitch in and help out when something needs to get done

Many activities to get involved in.

many help others - church- community organizations so you get to know a lot of the community

Many opportunities to get involved.

Many people are involved in the community and they make a difference - the community provides ways to make a difference and has opportunity for involvement.

opportunities

People and how they support other people in community.

People are always looking for ways to improve and make more welcoming to others.

Redeemer Church and their lovingness and how helping they are

Service clubs. Church.

the ability to get involved

The culture of respect and collaboration among civic groups, businesses, churches and individuals.

The energy in the community, the way the town works to draw in visitors thus making it a friendly place to enjoy.

The many churches welcome and respect all faiths.

The number of people that volunteer for community events is what I love most.

the overall involvement of the people

The people here are involved and contribute to the well-being of the community.

The town is large enough to have lots of opportunities to get involved.

The vibrancy of a small active community that works to protect the history as well as making modern improvements.

The volunteer engagement.

There are opportunities for all ages to get involved in community which is crucial in this time of cell phones, social media, etc. which can sometimes make us feel separate or alone.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer within the community.

There seems to be a lot going on in the community.

veterans and civic organizations

Volunteer activism and participation.

Volunteer dedication, activism

volunteer opportunities

volunteerism

volunteers

CITY GOVERNMENT

Library, Safety, Services

(it meets most needs) govt services,

(Very politically engaged with) city government

all needed services, feeling safe,

All of the services available. World class library.

Being independent with water, electric, we do not have to rely on metro area for support services.

Safe for family, friends and children. Quick response times from law enforcement, fire and ambulance services.

feel safe

Feel safe.

feeling safe

Feeling safe whether at home or around town

I feel safe here.

I feel safe.

I love our library.

I love the amenities of the community -services

library

library

Library

Library

low crime impact

low crime, safe place to live, not worried about theft

Lower cost of living compared to Indianola

My kids can walk to school and I feel they are safe. It is family oriented and this is most important.

Our Fire department services is really great. A Library that offers many things to the community. Materials, Internet access, programming.

our library

good law protection

police, fire department

safe

safe

safe environment

safe

safe

safety

safety

safety - I ride my bike everywhere

safety of living in the City Limits of Winterset.

simple traffic patterns - no one ways, free parking...

some nice amenities

the adequacy of services

The Library is the BEST public facility of all. Director makes it a Welcome and Inviting place for All.

The library is WONDERFUL! It provides numerous programs and activities for all ages.

THE LIBRARY!

The Library,

the price

The Winterset library is a beautiful facility that offers all a library should offer plus

Very good utility & community services with updated, well-kept facilities.

PLANNING / GROWTH / HOUSING

Getting better in accepting and adapting to change

Growing slowly

I love how we have grown in the last few years.

I returned to Iowa after 30 years in Omaha, Nebraska. I selected Winterset as my community because I saw an area which was committed to listening, planning and working together to build an economy and culture.

It is progressive.

Love watching it grow. Love watching the values of real estate rise and more people moving here from the city.

Winterset has been able to evolve and remain relevant without compromising its integrity.

Winterset is close enough to Des Moines for commuting and recreation, yet far enough away to stand alone. It's not part of the urban sprawl of West Des Moines/Waukee.

CITY LAND USE / APPEARANCE/ PROPERTY

A beautiful city park. When my family comes to visit, they mention how nice the community looks.

all the beauty

an attractive and enjoyable place to live

can walk everywhere

Antique charm. Clean.

appearance

beautiful covered bridges and beautiful land

beautiful landscapes with rolling hills, small agriculture

beautiful

Beautiful

beauty

Beauty of Winterset

beauty, flowers

Because I live very close to downtown, I love the walkability of the community.

can walk downtown

City parks, aquatic center, bike friendly

city state parks

clean

clean and neat homes

clean

clean

Clean. Very few bad areas. Overall Winterset is a very clean community with tree lined streets and well-kept homes.

cleanliness

cleanliness, beauty

down home charm

Flag flying in city. Holiday flags. Service and flags at cemetery on Memorial Day. Parks.

flower baskets

Flowers, it's clean

great city park

Great city park

Great neighbors who take care of their property

hanging planters in summer

I also love that residents take great pride in their property and are always on the lookout for ways to improve neighborhoods -- I think our 'face' is the welcome mat to visitors and part of the proof is that we are attracting more and more persons and families are moving here after a visit.

I enjoy the cleanliness of the community.

I like the city parks, Skate Park and Rotary Maze.

I love the beauty of our town. I love the parks.

is a beautiful small town.

It has a focus on nature habitats and the natural beauty that surrounds it.

(it meets most needs) parks,

it's a beautiful downtown

it's a beautiful place

it's a great place to walk - it is attractive, feels safe, pretty good sidewalks, many stores and services within walking distance when you are on the square.

It's a very good walking community.

it's beautiful

its beauty ...

Large trees, well cared-for homes, parks & rec

Love the beauty of the historic square, and all of the beautiful historic homes.

natural beauty

Neat

overall clean and tidy appearance

parks

Parks

Parks - City Park shelter house

parks, fairgrounds, Pammel Park w/ford

Parks

picturesque

Picturesque

seem committed to serving and giving to keep our community aesthetically pleasing

that it is nice and clean

the beautiful flower lined streets

The beauty

the look

The natural beauty of the town as well as the added beauty - such as the flowers and seasonal decorations around the square - and upkeep of ALL of it.

the natural features - including city park, Cedar Lake, Middle River

The parks and the cemetery

the steeple of the Presbyterian church near downtown

The way things are kept beautiful and clean.

trees, pleasant city.

We have beautiful architecture and trees.

Well-kept homes

wide sidewalks that encourage strolling

Winterset and the surrounding area are beautiful!!

HISTORY / ARTS & CULTURE

MUSEUMS, HERITAGE

The bridges. I love the history.

Bridges

Came here 35+ years ago. Love the history of the community.

covered bridges and John Wayne birthplace

covered bridges

Downtown historical national registry designation

(Farming community) with a mix of artsy

Historic buildings

Historic buildings

Historic cultural emphasis

Historic feel

historic sites

Historical

historical things like bridges and parks

history

history

history is valued

history, Historical Complex, Covered Bridges, Clarks Tower

I love how historical the town is.

I love that Winterset is rural in its roots and honors that, but also has a modern cultural vibe with the plethora of artists and crafts persons

I love the historic look of the square, and of many of the houses in town. I love that history seems to be valued.

I love the history.

its history ...

Love all of the artists and opportunities for classes

Museums.

Preservation of history and friendly people make this an inviting place resulting in increase in creative thinkers moving to town.

the artistic businesses

The arts community in Winterset –

The historic homes and square provide character, charm, and warmth.

the historic sites

the history

the history

The history of the county, I enjoy talking to the seniors in town about this.

the history

The John Wayne Birthplace is awesome as well.

The town has many cultural opportunities.

The vibrancy of a small active community that works to protect the history as well as making modern improvement

the Winterset Art Center

tourism

Tourism helps keep the community together.

We have a love for the arts with theater, movies, museums and art center. We celebrate our heroes, George Washington Carver, George Stout, John Wayne.

Winterset is rich in history, so much can be learned within our community.

RURAL LIFE / COUNTY ISSUES

Land Preservation, Wind

A farming community

Beautiful view of rural Madison County

community of all and consider all of Madison Co to be my community

corn and stuff

courthouse

Farm community

Farming community (with a mix of artsy)

its rolling hills with varied landscapes

Love the farming community and the generous people in it!

neighbors - wild life - farmland - peace & quiet

Privacy of rural living. Natural setting close to nature.

Rural / Ag Based Community;

The court house employees are knowledgeable and respectful.

(Very politically engaged with) county government.

We live in the country 3 miles from town. The neighbors are a big plus. Our privacy is important.

wide open spaces, beautiful views - except the wind turbines! abundant wildlife, trees, corn and bean fields unspoiled by industrial structures

(Winterset) and the surrounding area are beautiful!!

SCHOOLS

school system

Community support of schools

Good school system

Good school

Good Schools

good schools

Great school system that is not plagued by the problems of a metro sized school.

Great schools

great schools

I am terribly grateful to the school and feel my children got a very well-rounded education here.

I especially appreciate the support of the local high school sports teams.

I love the school system.

I love the schools

Involvement the community has with the schools.

Our schools provide a lot of great opportunities for our kids.

Safe and great schools

School

School district

School district.

School system.

school

schools

Schools

schools

Schools

Support of schools.

The school district is good.

the school programs and projects

The school.

the schools

The support of the community towards the schools.

Very politically engaged with school system

Winterset school is large enough to offer many opportunities, but small enough for kids to be involved.

HEALTH CARE / ELDERLY & FAMILY SERVICES

It seems there are a lot of resources for those needing assistance.

Excellent health care

Good health care facilities

health care

healthcare

Hospital and doctors.

hospital

hospital

Hospital, doctors and dentist.

(it meets most needs) healthcare

Local hospital and clinics.

providing services for our youth with our basic needs

The hospital in Winterset - the staff are caring and professional.

When my wife was in hospice, we had Meals on Wheels deliver - very helpful for folks who can't get out.

OTHER

It's a great place to live.

Location - Close to metro and other small towns around

love its close proximity to DSM

Near Des Moines and services of a larger town.

Proximity to Des Moines

Proximity to urban area.

the whole community

nor do I really care for 25% of the people I meet in our community. I 100% disagree with the way the votes swing, and I wish more of the newcomers to town/the younger generations that grew up in town would come to vote, and care about our community.

short driving distance to Des Moines, Kansas City, Chicago, Omaha, & Minneapolis.

been here a year

Close to city

Closeness to Des Moines and the Metro

Everything

everything

I like being close to Des Moines but not having to be there every day.

Location--proximity to the DSM Metro and easy access to a larger city

My home

Access to Des Moines.

Great location

proximity to Des Moines

I don't love our community

Proximity to Des Moines.

Proximity to Des Moines; can get a good paying job in Des Moines

25 minutes to Des Moines Metro Area for shopping, dining, entertainment, sporting events.

close to Des Moines

everything

It's close to Des Moines and

Not much.

Nothing