Focus Group Results Executive Summary

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

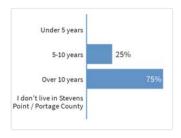
Retirees/Downsizers
Arts & Culture
Innovation
Sustainability
Education
Small Business
Health & Wellness
Young Professionals
Diversity & Inclusion

Stevens Point Focus Group 1 Retirees/Downsizers

Current run (last updated Aug 19, 2020 12:29pm)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?

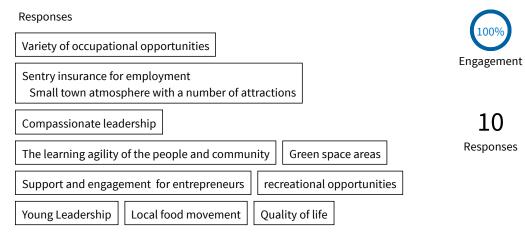


Response options	Count	Percentage	100%
Under 5 years	0	0%	100%
5-10 years	1	25%	Engagement
Over 10 years	3	75%	
I don't live in Stevens Point / Portage County	0	0%	4

Responses

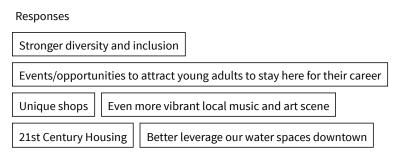
What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



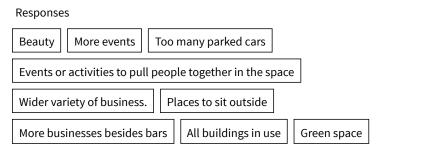


75% Engagement

6 Responses

What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)







9 Responses

In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?

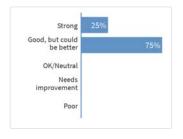






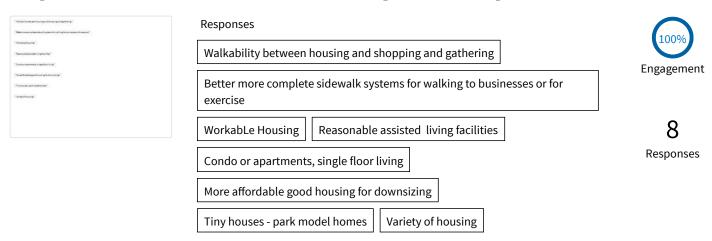
4 Responses

How would you rate the ability of residents to "age in place" in Stevens Point?

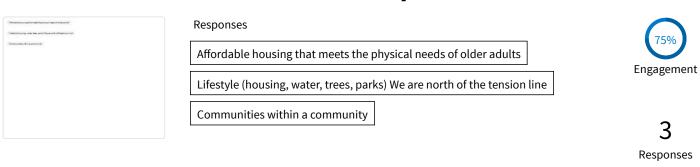


Response options Strong	Count 1	Percentage 25%	100%
Good, but could be better	3	75%	Engagement
OK/Neutral	0	0%	
Needs improvement	0	0%	4
Poor	0	0%	Responses

What are THREE THINGS that would make it easier to "age in place" in Stevens Point? Be specific (Up to 3)



What is the MOST IMPORTANT THING that could be done in Stevens Point to make it a better place for retirees?

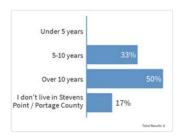


Stevens Point Focus Group Arts and Culture

Current run (last updated Aug 20, 2020 12:56pm)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



Response options	Count	Percentage	
Under 5 years	0	0%	100%
5-10 years	2	33%	Engagement
Over 10 years	3	50%	
I don't live in Stevens Point / Portage County	1	17%	6

Responses

Engagement

11 Responses

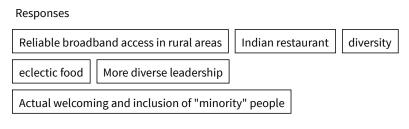
What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



Responses
Walkable, bike-able, hike-able, swimmable
People you wouldn't expect to have a lot of social capital actually do
Some Water and woods still left Strong support of 'weird ideas'
Beautiful outdoor spaces, walking and bike trails, river front, Scmeekle Reserve, etc
Green Circle Trail situated on the tension zone
Close integration of natural resources with urban/rural living with a 'solid' four seasons
A part of the Original homeland of the Menominee
People make more eye contact than pretty much anywhere else I have been.
Vibrant arts scene within a small community

What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



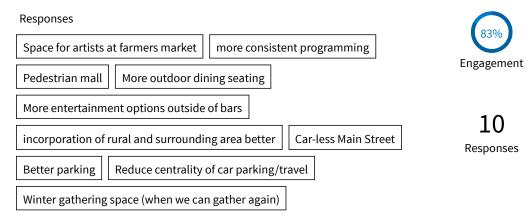




6 Responses

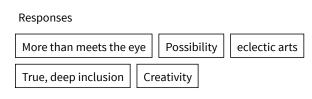
What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)





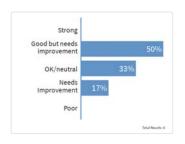
In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?







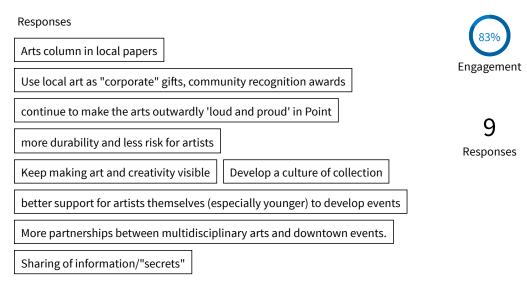
How would you rate the overall level of support for the arts community in Stevens Point?



Response options	Count	Percentage	1000/
Strong	0	0%	100%
Good but needs improvement	3	50%	Engagement
OK/neutral	2	33%	
Needs Improvement	1	17%	6
Poor	0	0%	Responses

What are specific things that could be done to make Stevens Point a more dynamic community for arts and culture? (Up to 3)





If Stevens Point won a \$5M grant for arts & culture but could only spend it on ONE THING, what should it be?



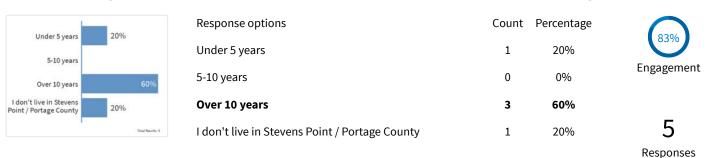
Responses The IDEA Center	50%
Large free gallery featuring/ supporting local regional arts in multiple formats.	Engagement
A killer maker/screening/gallery/co-op space	3
	Responses

Stevens Point Focus Group Innovation

Current run (last updated Aug 20, 2020 7:38pm)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



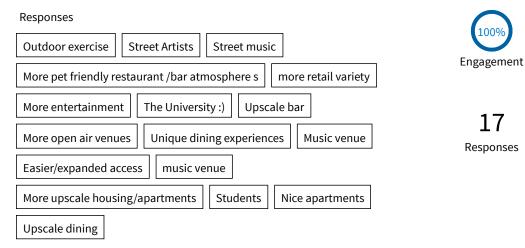


100% Engagement

13 Responses

What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)





In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?



Responses

Vibrant young supportive community leading example for leveraging creative and sustainable ecosystems

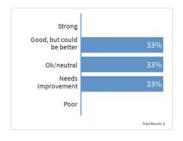
A destination for... Entrepreneur hub Inclusive culture

Great place to raise a family Vibrant culture



6

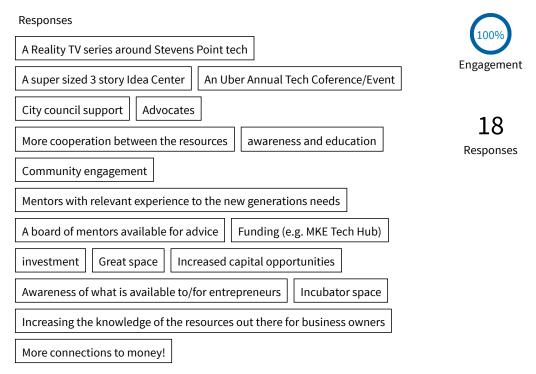
How would you rate the capacity/vitality of Stevens Point's "entrepreneurial ecosystem"?



Response options	Count	Percentage	1000/
Strong	0	0%	100%
Good, but could be better	2	33%	Engagement
Ok/neutral	2	33%	
Needs Improvement	2	33%	6
Poor	0	0%	Responses

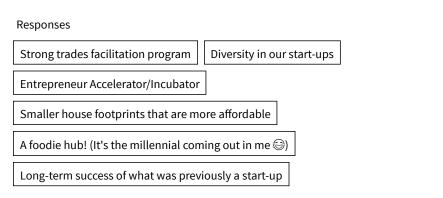
What are specific things that could improve Stevens Point's "entrepreneurial ecosystem"? (Up to 3)





If Stevens Point could only be known for ONE THING in innovation, what could it be?







What is the MOST IMPORTANT THING that could be done to enhance this innovation niche in Stevens Point?



Responses

Build an accelerator/incubator program with VC raising events.



An association to bring people together to hear needs

Need more cross generational meetups to discuss our similarities and differences and how best to work together to achieve goals

Large collective investment

Funding

Access to capital

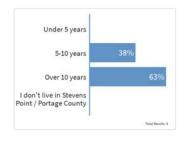
6

Stevens Point Focus Group 4 Sustainability Exec Summary

Current run (last updated Aug 24, 2020 2:02am)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



Response options	Count	Percentage	1000/
Under 5 years	0	0%	100%
5-10 years	3	38%	Engagement
Over 10 years	5	63%	
I don't live in Stevens Point / Portage County	0	0%	8

What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



Responses

 our mayor
 Sustainability efforts, like MREA
 Local food community

 Multigenerational community.
 Support of local art and craft
 Radicals

 The beginning of social movements towards community access

23

Engagement

Responses

1 There is an abundance of local food. | schmeeckle

Local food in abundance

1) Great local food community, 2) Wisconsin River and beautiful waters, 3) some really neat local businesses

UWSP | Incredible green spaces

Unique location surrounded by 3 big cities

The Green Circle trail provides abundant outdoor trails.

Beautiful Green Circle Local Farms Great "communiversity" feeling

Historic town by the beautiful Wisconsin river

Groups like this- incredibly motivated people who want to improve their community

Green Circle Trail | Nice people | Great outdoor t

What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



Responses

Community owned solar Downtown to Riverfront Connection

City sponsored access, social justice, and community program initiatives

Recreation place for elderly and kids

Renewable energy integration in distributed energy system

Gathering space that isn't centered around bars

A common recreation place with specific focus on people of color, elderly etc

1) Artist/maker co op or space with resources for making 2) more parks 3) fewer fast food joints

Municipal electric utility

1. A central gathering spot downtown that includes green space.

Community gardens | City run compost

A splash pad for kiddos to enjoy (in non covid times)



What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)





In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?

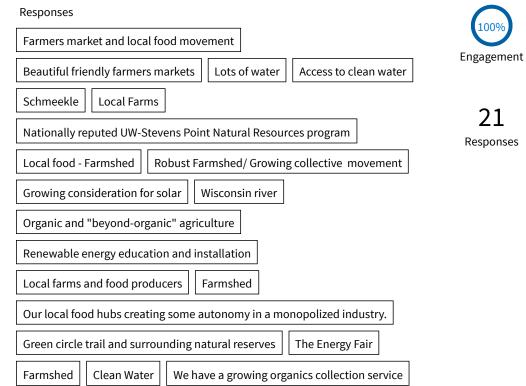






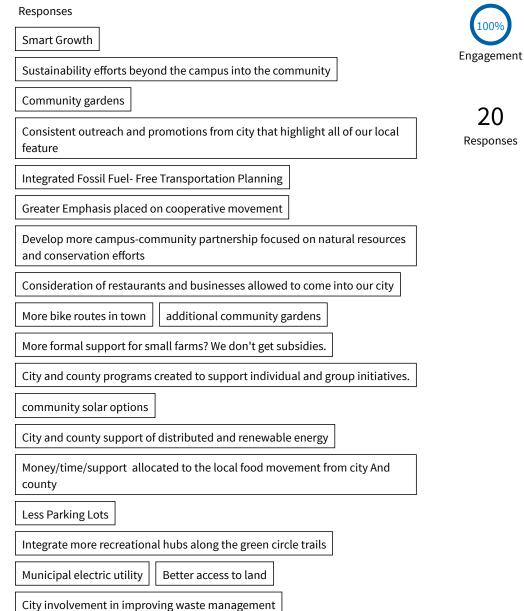
What local natural resource/sustainability capacity would you highlight externally as an asset? Be specific. (Up to 3)





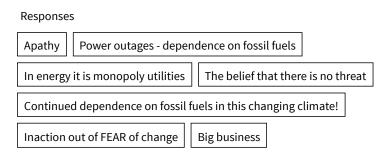
What are THREE THINGS that would enhance that capacity even more?





What is the GREATEST THREAT to Stevens Point's community sustainability?







20

Give TWO IDEAS on how sustainability could be better leveraged for economic development/job creation in Stevens Point:



Responses

Permaculture Development- plant food based plants around town

Jobs can exist through compost

Reduce car-centrism in all things development/zoning/streets/facilities/etc.

1. More people involved in creation and production of food

Develop the reputation that sustainability is the rule and mode of operation not the exception or unique

Develop microgrid that would integrate renewable energy sources, create lots of local jobs and provide energy independence

Municipal electric utility with community solar and storage for resiliency



Stevens Point Focus Group 5 Education Exec Summary

8

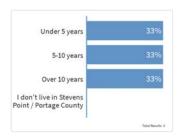
6



Activities Participants Average responses

Average engagement

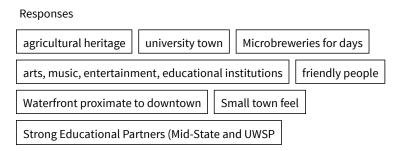
How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



Response options	Count	Percentage
Under 5 years	1	33%
5-10 years	1	33%
Over 10 years	1	33%
I don't live in Stevens Point / Portage County	0	0%

What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)







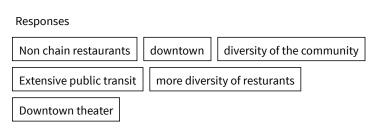
Engagement

Responses

8 Responses

What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)

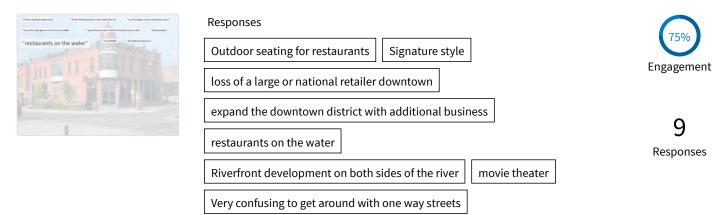




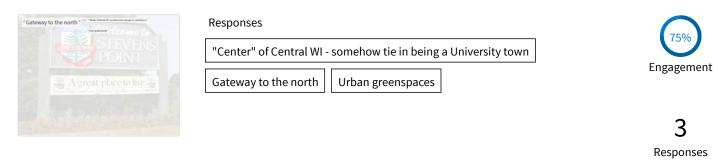


What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)

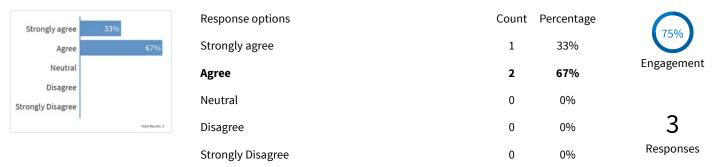
Bi-directional roadways



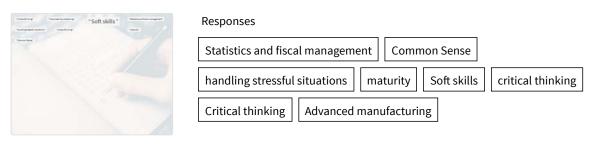
In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?



Stevens Point students are provided the necessary skills to succeed in the jobs of tomorrow.



What skills do you think are most lacking? (Up to 3)



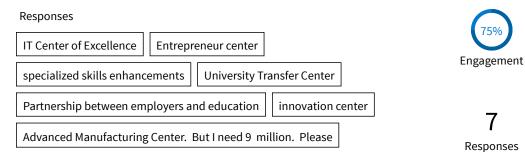


Responses

Engagement

You have \$1 million to spend to enhance education and training in Stevens Point. What do you spend it on? (Up to 3)





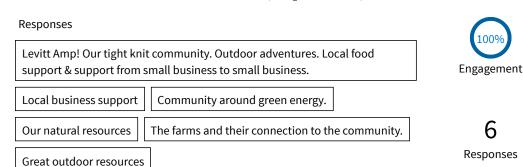
Stevens Point Small Business Focus Group Exec Summary

Current run (last updated Aug 24, 2020 10:41pm)

Activities Participants Average responses Average engagement

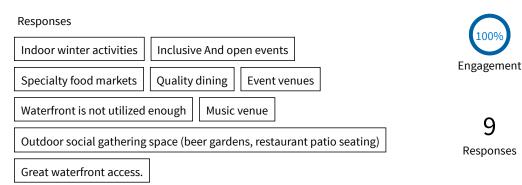
What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





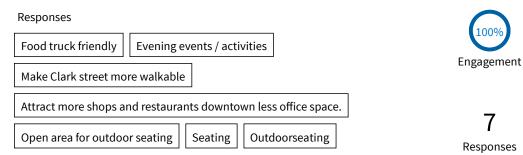
What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)





In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?



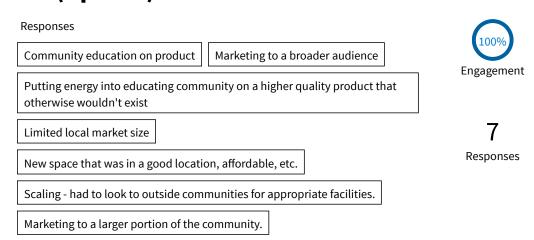




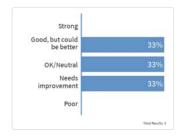
3 Responses

What were the biggest challenges your small business faced BEFORE Covid-19? (up to 3)





How would you describe the support your small business has received from government/economic organizations through the pandemic?



Response options	Count	Percentage	1000/
Strong	0	0%	100%
Good, but could be better	1	33%	Engagement
OK/Neutral	1	33%	
Needs improvement	1	33%	3
Poor	0	0%	Responses

What are THREE TYPES OF SUPPORT that could help Stevens Point's small businesses thrive AFTER the pandemic?





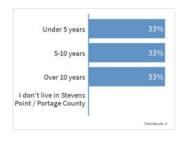


Stevens Point Focus Group Health and Wellness

Current run (last updated Aug 25, 2020 3:39pm)

12 9 10 59%)
Activities Participants Average responses Average engagement

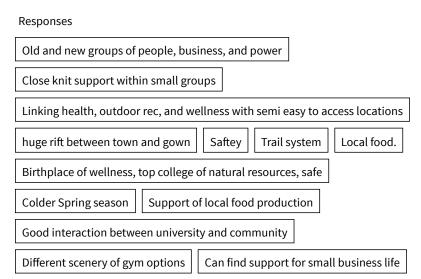
How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



Response options	Count	Percentage	6770
Under 5 years	2	33%	67%
5-10 years	2	33%	Engagement
Over 10 years	2	33%	
I don't live in Stevens Point / Portage County	0	0%	6
			Responses

What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





Levitt Amp! Our tight knit community. Outdoor adventures. Local food

support & support from small business to small business.

"Adventure," flexibility to engage with the community

Community around green energy.

The farms and their connection to the community.

22 Responses

Engagement

What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)

Green Circle Trail

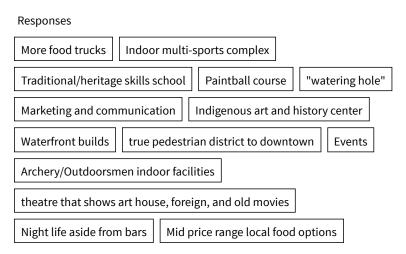
Local business support

Our natural resources

Great outdoor resources

Lots of opportunities for fitness

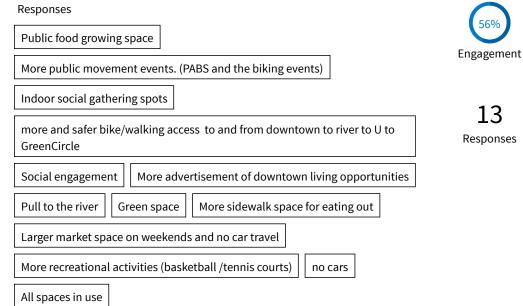






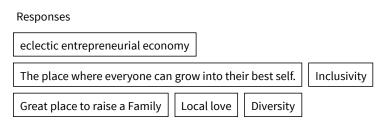
What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)





In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?







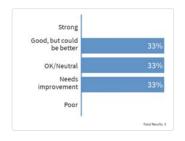
6 Responses

What were the biggest challenges your small business faced BEFORE Covid-19? (up to 3)





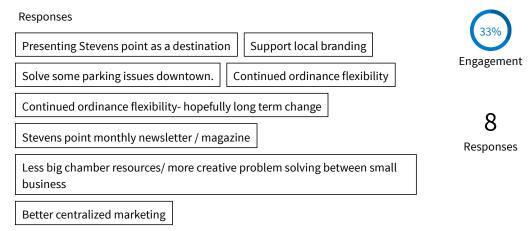
How would you describe the support your small business has received from government/economic organizations through the pandemic?



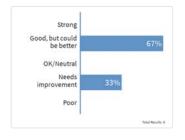
Response options	Count	Percentage	220/
Strong	0	0%	33%
Good, but could be better	1	33%	Engagement
OK/Neutral	1	33%	
Needs improvement	1	33%	3
Poor	0	0%	Responses

What are THREE TYPES OF SUPPORT that could help Stevens Point's small businesses thrive AFTER the pandemic?





Rate your level of agreement with this statement: "A commitment to wellness is part of the culture of Stevens Point."



Response options	Count	Percentage	670/
Strong	0	0%	67%
Good, but could be better	4	67%	Engagement
OK/Neutral	0	0%	
Needs improvement	2	33%	6
Poor	0	0%	Responses

What are THREE WAYS this culture could be enhanced?



Responses

More culture and diversity... by recognizing/celebrating culture and diversity



address the barrier of kids who cannot be involved in school sports because of money and transportation after school

Hugs

More culture and diversity

16 Responses

More visible parenting groups for healthy pregnant women, babies and parenting

Walking the walk as a professional in the wellness industry.

org that facilitates swapping used equipment and clothes so families can better afford to be active

Make wellness for all, not so elitist

Organizational funding for education, access, and lifestyle

Collaboration between wellness organizations

More social opportunities for wellness

Infiltrate the hospital and medical professionals to support and recommend teal health options

Outdoor events

More free, low cost opportunities for PA

integration with education

Organizational support

What are the greatest CHALLENGES to improved wellness in Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



Responses

The weather

Education on how personal lifestyle, environment, and wellness are connected

Understanding of psychology with how wellness, lifestyle, and change happen.

Level of commitment The penny-pincher culture Access

Misunderstanding of what it is | Health is not valued

Everything Annie just said | Overall resistance to wellness | Culture

Wellness is not cool | Complacency

56%

Engagement

If you could invest in ONLY ONE enhanced or new OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECT in Stevens Point, what would it be?



Responses

"Outdoor parks with personalities" that highlight specific activities, such as rock climbing, futsal, basketball, tennis. Challenge - usable in winter.



I love the idea of creating a recreational center along the river/downtown that draws all kinds of different people for spontaneous and organized PA opportunities (the tennis and bball courts idea but even more) that is easily / super safely accessible by bike so parents will let kids bike their on their own

6 Responses

Rec complex near downtown

Indoor facility complex for sports/outdoors activities/ etc.

Public food gardens for perennials and annuals

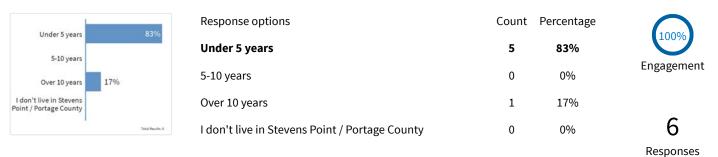
Outdoor gym

Stevens Point Focus Group 8 Young Professionals

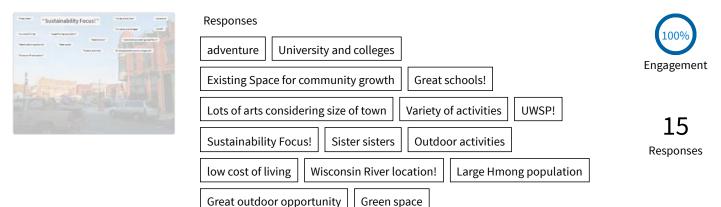
Current run (last updated Aug 26, 2020 9:59am)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?

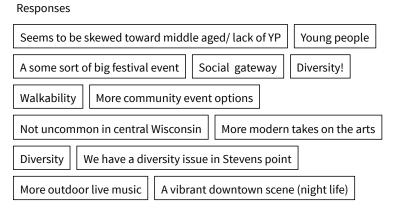


What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





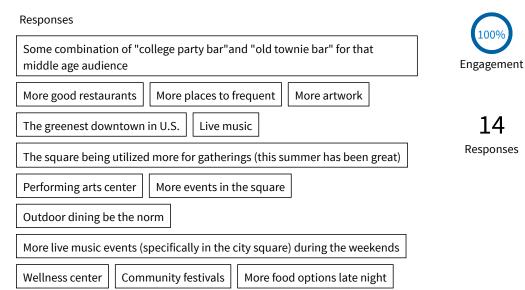
Engagement

13

Responses

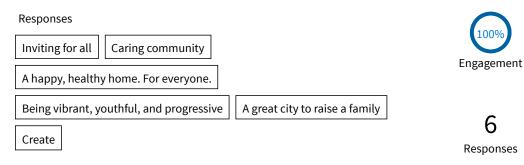
What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)



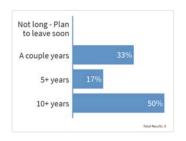


In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?





I see myself staying in Stevens Point for...

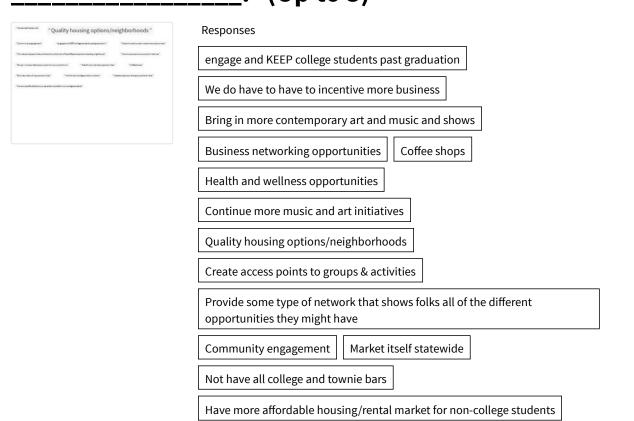


10+ years	3	50%
5+ years	1	17%
A couple years	2	33%
Not long - Plan to leave soon	0	0%
Response options	Count	Percentage



6 Responses

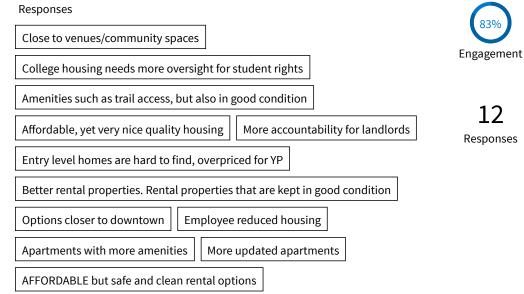
Fill in the blank: "To better retain and attract young professionals, Stevens Point really needs to _____." (Up to 3)





What type of HOUSING options would you most like to see in Stevens Point? (be specific – Up to 3)



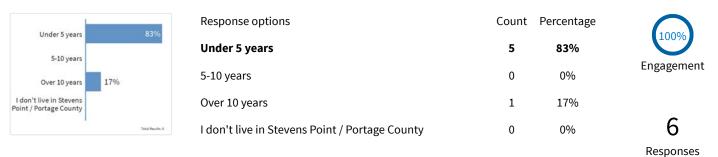


Stevens Point Focus Group 8 Young Professionals

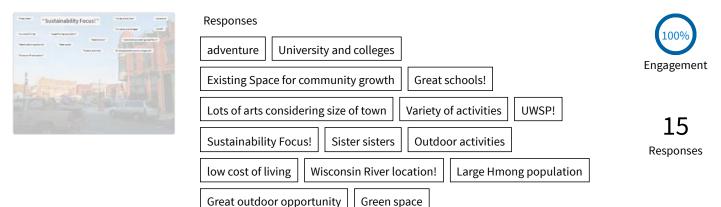
Current run (last updated Aug 26, 2020 9:59am)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?

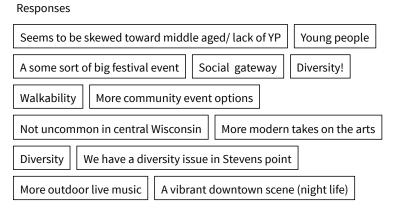


What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)





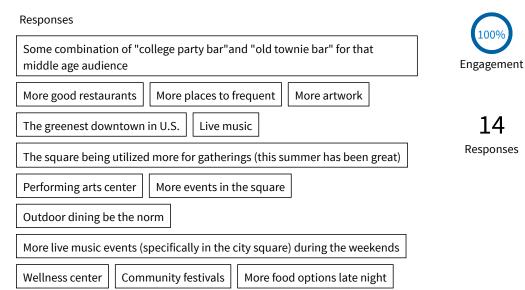
Engagement

13

Responses

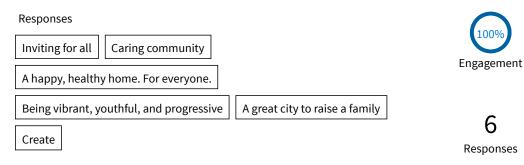
What ideas or improvements would you want to see downtown? (Up to 3)



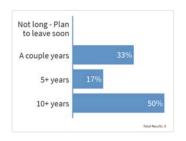


In a word or phrase - what you would like Stevens Point be known for?





I see myself staying in Stevens Point for...

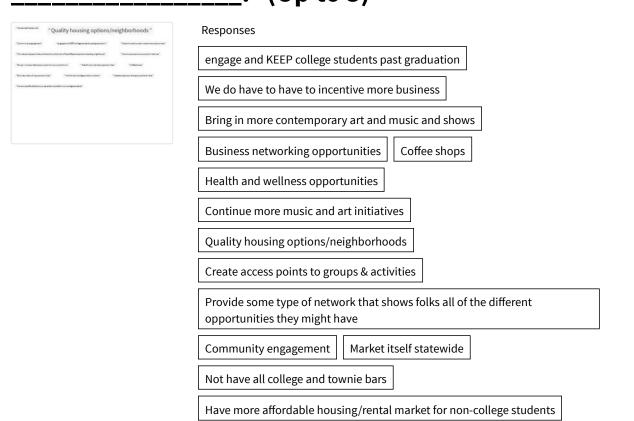


10+ years	3	50%
5+ years	1	17%
A couple years	2	33%
Not long - Plan to leave soon	0	0%
Response options	Count	Percentage



6 Responses

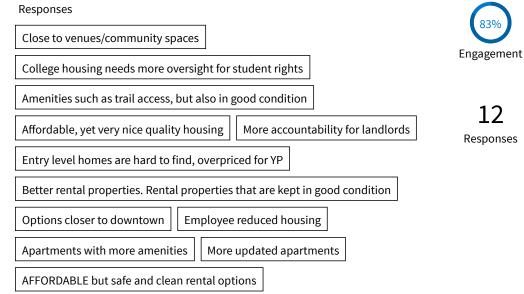
Fill in the blank: "To better retain and attract young professionals, Stevens Point really needs to _____." (Up to 3)





What type of HOUSING options would you most like to see in Stevens Point? (be specific – Up to 3)



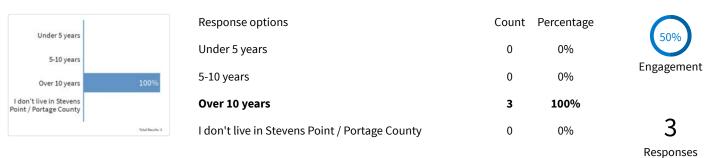


Stevens Point Focus Group Diversity and Inclusion

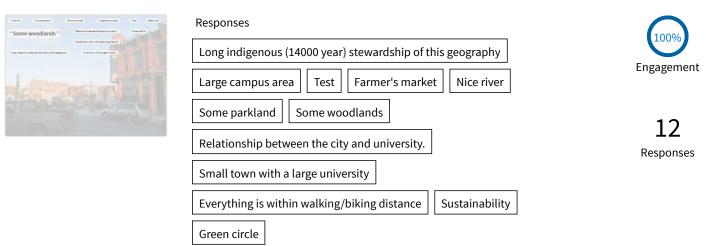
Current run (last updated Sep 3, 2020 10:57pm)



How long have you lived in Stevens Point / Portage County?



What's unique about Stevens Point? (Up to 3)



What's missing from Stevens Point? (Up to 3)

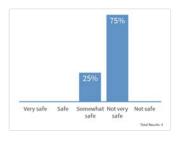


Responses
BIPOC Decent rural internet
Conduit of communication between stakeholders
Widespread appreciation for diversity Culturally response
Diversity with LGBTQ+ And minority community Community center
A real sense of inclusion and welcoming Broad band in rural areas
Variety of housing options

Engagement

10 Responses

Rate your overall feeling of safety in Stevens Point



Response options	Count	Percentage	670/
Very safe	0	0%	67%
Safe	0	0%	Engagement
Somewhat safe	1	25%	
Not very safe	3	75%	4
Not safe	0	0%	Responses

What does a truly diverse and inclusive Stevens Point look like?



Responses	67%
Serious self examination of power sharing	En en en en en en
More recourses and events for LGBTQ+ students at UWSP	Engagement
No "looks" when folks hear another language beyond English being spoke	10
Public art that celebrates all of Point's communities	LU Responses
Noticing racist police in the phrase f*ck the racist police instead of seeing f*ck the police	
Representation/reflection of BIPOC in law enforcement, elected officials, programming, resources, etc.	
Zero tolerance of hate in public spaces.	
In committees, actually including people from marginalized groups and not people who work with marginalized groups	
More pride related events	
Not worrying where I go because of what I believe.	